

REPORT: Regulatory Sub-Committee

DATE: 19 August 2025

REPORTING OFFICER: Director – Legal and Democratic Services

PORTFOLIO: Resources

SUBJECT: Application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor – Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes, WA8 8SX

WARDS: Ditton, Hale Village and Halebank

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To assist the Members of the Regulatory Sub-Committee in their consideration for an application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor made by Cheshire Retail Ltd for the Blundells Arms, Hale Road, Widnes.

2. RECOMMENDATION that

The Sub-Committee considers the contents of the report and makes a determination on the application.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An application has been made by Cheshire Retail Ltd (Premises Licence Holder) to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor at the Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes.
- 3.2 An application has been made under Section 37 of the Licensing Act 2003 to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor into Mr Ben Longman's name for the Blundell Arms, Hale Road, Widnes on the 15th July 2025.
- 3.3 The premises has held a licence since the 8th November 2021, there has been a previous licence in place at this premises since the 24th November 2005 until the 8 June 2021.

4. THE APPLICATION

- 4.1 An application was submitted to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor on the 15th July 2025 into the name of

Mr Ben Longman. A copy of the application can be found at **Appendix A** of this report.

- 4.2 The current Designated Premises Supervisor at the Blundell Arms is Steven Hewitt.
- 4.3 Attached for completeness at **Appendix B** of this report, is a copy of the licence for the Blundell Arms which includes the conditions attached to the licence.

5. REQUIREMENT FOR A HEARING

- 5.1 The application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor is normally straight forward and dealt with as an administrative matter. As part of the application process, the applicant is required to give notice to the Chief Officer of Police where an application has been made under Section 37 of the Act.
- 5.2 Under the Act, where a Chief Officer of Police is satisfied that the exceptional circumstances of the case are such that granting the application would undermine the crime prevention objective, he must serve notice on the licensing authority and, where such a notice has been served and not withdrawn, a hearing must be held to determine the application.
- 5.3 The application to Vary the Designated Premises Supervisor was submitted on the 15 July 2025 and was sent to the responsible authority (which are the Police) on the same day. There is a 14 days representation period which expired on the 29 July 2025.
- 5.4 During the 14 days representation period, the Licensing Authority received a relevant objection from the Responsible Authority, namely Cheshire Police to the application to Vary Designated Premises Supervisor.
- 5.5 As stated above, where relevant representations have been made and not withdrawn, the licensing authority must hold a hearing to consider them (unless otherwise agreed by the parties).
- 5.6 The hearing is held in accordance with the Act and the Licensing Act 2003 (Hearings) Regulations 2005. The procedure to be followed has been circulated to all parties and will be repeated at the beginning of the hearing.
- 5.9 The hearing is solely concerned with those aspects of the application, which has been the subject of the relevant representation as defined in the Act. These are the representation made by Cheshire Police.

- 5.10 At the time of writing this report I have not received any indication from the Cheshire Police, if they will be making any submissions to the Sub-Committee at the hearing. All parties have all been informed of the hearing.

6. THE REPRESENTATIONS

6.1 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

Relevant representations have been received from Cheshire Police.

Attached at **Appendix C** is a copy of the objection to the Vary of Designated Premises Supervisor. The objection is on the ground that it would undermine the licensing objectives on the prevention of crime and disorder.

7. OPTIONS

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee has the following options under Section 39 of the Act;

- (1) Grant the application to vary the designated premises supervisor,
- (2) Reject the application to vary the designated premises supervisor if it considers it appropriate for the promotion of the crime prevention objective.

9. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None

10. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no special financial considerations to the Authority which need to be highlighted at this stage. However, it should be noted that the decision of the sub-committee is subject to appeal to the Magistrates' Court. If an appeal is made, there will be costs associated with this.

11. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 11.1 **Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence**

None

11.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None

11.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

None

11.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

None

11.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

None

11.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

None

12. RISK ANALYSIS

- 12.1. The Council is required to hold the hearing in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Failure to do so, may mean that the Council is acting in breach of its obligations under that Act.

13. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 13.1 There are no equality and diversity issues to highlight.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 There are no climate change implications since the decision will have no effect on the environment.

15. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Application Documents	Legal Services	Kim Hesketh