

**REPORT:** Regulatory Sub-Committee

**DATE:** 28 August 2025

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director – Legal and Democratic Services

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Application for a Premises Licence –  
Cavendish Store, 6 Balfour Street, Runcorn,  
WA7 4PH

**WARDS:** Mersey

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To assist Members of the Regulatory Committee in their consideration of an application by Mr Abdullah Waris for the grant of a premises licence for Cavendish Store, 6 Balfour Street, Runcorn, WA7 4PH

## **2. RECOMMENDATION that**

The committee considers the contents of the report and makes a determination on the application.

## **3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The premises is situated on Balfour Street, Runcorn surrounded by residential houses. A plan of the area is attached at **Appendix A**.

3.2 The premises was previously occupied by Runcorn Conservative Club and has been a licensed premises since 24 November 2005. Although the Licensing Department is aware that the premises has been closed since 30 November 2024.

3.3 The previous licence, known as Runcorn Conservative Club was licensed for the below;

### **Supply of Alcohol (on the premises)**

Sunday to Thursday 10.00 to 00.00

Friday and Saturday 10.00 to 02.00

### Hours open to the public

Sunday to Thursday 10.00 to 00.00

Friday and Saturday 10.00 to 02.00

The premises licence included the provision of regulated entertainment, the hours where the same as above.

- 3.4 The premises is now occupied by Cavendish Store and a new premises licence is sought, to provide a general grocery store in a residential area.
- 3.5 As mentioned in 3.1 the premises is located within a residential area but there is a number of licensed premises within the area, attached at **Appendix B** is a table detailing the distance from this premises and the licensable hours of the other premises.
- 3.6 The application has been made in an individual's name, officers can confirm all the appropriate checks have been completed.

## 4. THE APPLICATION

- 4.1 The application has been made under section 17, of the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Act").
- 4.2 A copy of the application can be found at **Appendix C**.
- 4.3 According to the application, the applicant seeks:

Hours open to the Public Monday to Sunday 07.00 to 23.00

Supply of alcohol Monday to Sunday 07.00 to 23.00

- 4.4 Within the operating schedule set out in the application, the applicant has set out the steps they intend to take to promote the four licensing objectives. These include:-
- CCTV Recording;
  - CCTV to be retained for a period of 28 days;
  - The premises licence holder or designated premises supervisor is to provide the Police with their contact details;
  - The premises licence holder or designated premises supervisor will notify the Police in the event CCTV breaks down;

- Staff training;
- A record of staff training;
- An incident book will be maintained;
- Management and staff are to use their best endeavours to prevent persons loitering outside the premises;
- Prominent, clear and legible notices must be displayed at all exits, that customers need to respect the local residents
- Staff to monitor the area immediately outside of the premises;
- Challenge 25 policy in place;
- A refusal register will be in place;
- Notices will be displayed that it is unlawful for a person under 18 to be purchased;
- Proxy signs will be displayed warning customers not to buy alcohol for children.

4.7. These steps will form the basis for conditions on the licence.

## **5. REQUIREMENT FOR A HEARING**

- 5.1 The application was submitted on 3 July 2025 and was advertised in the local newspaper on 17 July 2025. Officers have confirmed that the advertisement requirements were complied with.
- 5.2 During the 28 days representation period, the Licensing Authority received relevant representations from one local residents.
- 5.4 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).
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The hearing is solely concerned with those aspects of the application, which has been the subject of the relevant representations as defined in the Act. This is on the Licensing Objectives which the resident has stated Public Nuisance, although the Act does not cover parking, littering or loitering its solely on the increased noise from the premises being licensed. No other representations have been received to the application.

- 5.7 At the time of writing this report I have not received any indication from the one local resident, 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 ANY OTHER PERSON**

One representations has been received from a local residents who objects to the grant of the premises licence, with the main issue being public nuisance with the sale of alcohol having a detrimental effect on the neighbourhood with increased noise. Attached at **Appendix D** is the resident objection.

### **6.3 EVIDENCE**

In accordance with the normal procedure, it is noted that the relevant representations do not amount to evidence. The objectors have been requested to supply the evidence they intend to rely on no later than 5 working days prior to the hearing. When received this will be forwarded to the applicant and members of the committee.

## **7. LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK**

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee must determine the application with a view to promoting the licensing objectives which are:

- The prevention of crime and disorder;
- The prevention of public nuisance;
- Public Safety;
- The protection of children from harm.

- 7.2. In making its decision, the Sub-Committee must also have regard to the national guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 ("the Guidance") and the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy ("Policy").

- 7.3 Relevant sections from the Guidance can be found at **Appendix E**

- 7.4 Members' attention is also drawn to the following paragraphs of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy:-

### **1. Introduction**

...

5. The Council wish to promote these objectives whilst still encouraging a vibrant and sustainable entertainment and leisure industry. The Council recognises both the needs of local residents for a safe and healthy environment in which to work and live and the importance of safe and well-run entertainment and leisure facilities to the area.

...

15. The Council's vision as set out within the Corporate Strategy 2018/2020 and within Halton's fifteen year Sustainable Community Strategy 2011–2026 is that:

"Halton will be a thriving and vibrant Borough where people can learn and develop their skills; enjoy a good quality of life with good health; a high quality, modern urban environment; the opportunity for all to fulfil their potential; greater wealth and equality, sustained by a thriving business community; and safer, stronger and more attractive neighbourhoods".

...

17. Locally due to the high levels of alcohol-related harm Halton experiences the Halton Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017/2022 includes the reduction in the harm from alcohol as a priority area.

18. The strategy identified a number of issues which may be affected by the licensing regime in Halton including:

- A significant proportion of cases of domestic violence are alcohol related
- Alcohol related crime and alcohol related violent crimes are worse in Halton than for both the North West and England as a whole
- Alcohol specific admissions (both among adults and those aged under 18) are much higher than the national and regional averages.

19. In addition due to the high levels of alcohol-related harm Halton was one of only twenty areas in the country to be awarded the status of being a "Local Alcohol Action Area" (LAAA). This award provided support from the Home Office and Public Health England during 2014/15 related to addressing the harm from alcohol across three areas – health, crime and anti-social behaviour, and diversifying the night time economy.

...

21. The vision of the strategy is to: “Enable people in Halton to have a sensible relationship with alcohol that promotes good health and wellbeing and ensures Halton is a safe place to live”.

22. In order to achieve this vision and minimise the harm from alcohol in Halton the strategy will seek to deliver three interlinked outcomes:

1. Reduce alcohol-related health harms
2. Reduce alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse
3. Establish a diverse, vibrant and safe night-time economy.

22. So far as is consistent with the licensing objectives, the Council will carry out its licensing functions with a view to promoting these priorities and themes (including priorities and themes which may be adopted from time to time).

23. The Council will encourage the provision of a wide range of entertainment activities within the Halton area including promotion of live music, dance and so on, in the interests of broadening cultural opportunities within the local community.

...

34. In addressing this matter, the Council will primarily focus on the direct impact of the activities taking place at the licensed premises on members of public living, working or engaged in normal activity in the area concerned. Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy in town and city centres.

[...]

### **35 The need for licensed premises**

36. There can be confusion about the difference between “need” and the “cumulative impact” of premises on the licensing objectives, for example, on crime and disorder. “Need” concerns the commercial demand for another pub or restaurant or hotel. This is not a matter for the Council in discharging its licensing functions. “Need” is a matter for planning committees and for the market.

[...]

46. Licensing law is not the primary mechanism for the general control of nuisance and anti-social behaviour by individuals once they are away from the licensed premises and, therefore, beyond the direct control of the individual, club or business holding the licence, certificate or authorisation concerned. Nonetheless, it is a key aspect of such control and licensing law will always be part of a holistic approach to the management of the evening and night-time economy in town and city centres. Once away from the licensed premises, a minority of consumers will behave badly and unlawfully. The general public needs to be made aware that there is a much broader strategy for addressing these problems than the licensing regime of the Act. There are other mechanisms both within and outside the licensing regime that are available for addressing such issues. For example:

- planning controls;
- positive measures to create a safe and clean town centre environment in partnership with local businesses, transport operators and other departments of the local authority;
- the provision of CCTV surveillance in town centres, ample taxi ranks, provision of public conveniences open late at night, street cleaning and litter patrols;
- powers of local authorities to designate parts of the local authority area as places where alcohol may not be consumed publicly;
- police enforcement of the general law concerning disorder and anti-social behaviour, including the issuing of fixed penalty notices;
- the prosecution of any personal licence holder or member of staff at such premises who is selling alcohol to people who are drunk;
- the confiscation of alcohol from adults and children in designated areas;
- closure notices and orders under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014; and
- the power of the police, other responsible authorities or a local resident or business to seek a review of the licence or certificate in question.

[...]

#### **48. Licensing hours**

49. With regard to licensing hours, consideration will be given to the individual merits of an application.

- The Council recognises that, in certain circumstances, longer licensing hours with regard to the sale of alcohol can help to ensure that concentrations of customers leaving premises simultaneously are avoided. This is necessary to

reduce the friction at late night fast food outlets, taxi ranks and other sources of transport which lead to disorder and disturbance.

- The Council also wants to ensure that licensing hours should not inhibit the development of a thriving and safe evening and night-time local economy.

50. The term “zoning” is used in the Guidance to refer to the setting of fixed trading hours within a designated area. At the moment the Council sees no need to adopt such a policy. The Council has followed the advice in the Guidance and will not be adopting such a Policy within the Borough. However, stricter conditions with regard to noise control will be expected in areas which have denser residential accommodation, but this will not limit opening hours without regard to the individual merits of any application.

...

#### **51. Shops stores and supermarkets**

52. With regard to shops, stores and supermarkets, the norm will be for such premises to be free to provide sales of alcohol for consumption off the premises at any times when the retail outlet is open for shopping unless there are very good reasons for restricting those hours. For example, a limitation may be appropriate following police representations in the case of some shops known to be a focus of disorder and disturbance because youths gather there.

#### **87. CCTV**

88. The presence of CCTV cameras can be an important means of deterring and detecting crime at and immediately outside licensed premises. Conditions should not just consider a requirement to have CCTV on the premises, but also the precise siting of each camera, the requirement to maintain cameras in working order, and to retain recordings for an appropriate period of time. The police should provide individuals conducting risk assessments when preparing operating schedules with advice on the use of CCTV to prevent crime.

...

#### **92. Crime prevention**

93. Conditions attached to premises licences and club premises certificates will, so far as possible, reflect



local crime prevention strategies. For example, the provision of closed circuit television cameras in certain premises. Conditions will, where appropriate, also reflect the input of the local Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

## **98. Good Management**

99. Certain kinds of physical environment within places subject to premises licences (such as an over preponderance of vertical drinking) are generally thought be less conducive to avoiding crime and disorder. Good management and adequate staff training are vital. Where appropriate the provision of food in addition to alcohol can have a beneficial effect. Where food is provided it is good practice (but not mandatory under the licensing system) to have regard to current practice on healthy eating. The Council encourages premises licence holders to take an active part in local Pub Watch and Arc Angel schemes.

100. Another aspect of good management in relation to door supervision is to have proper systems in place to comply with the Private Security Industry Act 2001 and to think about how good door supervision systems can contribute to crime reduction both within and outside of premises. Applicants will be expected to have considered these and all relevant issues and to reflect these within their operating schedules

- 7.5 A full copy of the Guidance and the Council's Policy will be available at the hearing.
- 7.6 Every case must be considered on its own merits. The Sub-Committee may depart from the Guidance and Policy if there is good reason to do so. However, proper reasons must be given.
- 7.7 In addition to the above, the Committee must have regard to its wider duties under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 and Article 1 of the First Protocol of the Human Rights Act 1998.

## **8. OPTIONS**

- 8.1 The Committee has the following options under Section 18 of the Act:

- (1) Grant the application subject to such conditions that are consistent with the operating schedule and any mandatory conditions;
- (2) Modify the conditions of the licence, by altering or omitting or adding to them;
- (3) Reject the application in whole or in part.

## **9. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

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**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Guidance issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003	Licensing Section/ Government Website see link 1 below.	Kim Hesketh
Halton Council's Statement of Licensing Policy	Licensing Section/ Council website see link 2 below.	Kim Hesketh

1. [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/705588/Revised\\_guidance\\_issued\\_under\\_section\\_182\\_of\\_the\\_Licensing\\_Act\\_2003\\_April\\_2018\\_.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/705588/Revised_guidance_issued_under_section_182_of_the_Licensing_Act_2003_April_2018_.pdf)
2. <https://www3.halton.gov.uk/Documents/business/licencing/alcoholent/StatementofLicensingPolicy.pdf>