

COMMITTEE REPORT

LICENSING COMMITTEE

31 July 2026

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF REGENERATION & HOUSING

Application for Review of Interim Steps following Summary Review of Premises Licence

Applicant: Mr Percy Quarcoo (Premises Licence Holder)

Premises: Lounge Afrique, 25 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TS1 1LP

Application received: 30 July 2026

Summary of Current Licensable Activities:

Films, Recorded Music, Live Music, Performances of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of Alcohol on the premises

Hours for Licensable Activities:

9:00 to 2am Monday to Sunday (Films)

9.00am to 02:30am Monday to Sunday (Live Music, Performance of Dance, Late Night Refreshment, Sale of alcohol)

9.00am to 3am Monday to Sunday

1. Summary of Application

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider an application for a review of the Interim Steps imposed by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026 following an application for a summary review of the premises licence for Lounge Afrique made by Cleveland Police on 27 July 2026.

A copy of the report considered by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026, along with written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder, who was unable to attend the hearing in person, is attached at Appendix 1.

After considering the report, representations from Cleveland Police and the written representations submitted by the Premises Licence holder the Licensing Sub Committee decided to suspend the Premises Licence and remove the Designated Premises Supervisor as an interim measure

pending the full review hearing which must take place on or before 24 August 2026.

A copy of the full decision letter sent to the Premises Licence holder on 29 August 2026 is attached at Appendix 2.

2. Legislation

The Licensing Act 2003 requires the Licensing Authority to carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives:

- The Prevention of Crime and Disorder
- Public Safety
- The Prevention of Public Nuisance
- The Protection of Children from Harm

The Licensing Authority must also have regard to its Licensing Policy and any guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 provides a procedure for a summary review of a premises licence by the Police for an expedited or 'fast track' review of a premises licence which authorises the sale of alcohol in cases where a senior police officer of the rank of superintendent or above gives a certificate indicating that in his/her opinion the premises are associated with serious crime and disorder or both. The procedure allows the licensing authority to respond by taking interim steps quickly, where appropriate, pending a full review.

Section 53 of the Licensing Act 2003 also makes provision for a Premises Licence Holder to make further representations to Members against any interim steps imposed at the Summary Review hearing. The Premises Licence Holder may do so at any time prior to the full review hearing. Where such representations are received a further hearing must be arranged within 48 hours to allow for these representations to be heard.

On 30 July 2026 a representation was received from the Premises Licence holder to review the Interim Steps imposed by the Licensing Sub Committee on 28 July 2026. A copy of that representation is attached at Appendix 3.

3. Notification to Cleveland Police and the Premises Licence Holder

A copy of the application and this report has been served on Cleveland Police and the Premises Licence Holder.

4. The Licensing Policy

Members are referred to the following relevant sections of the Council's Licensing Policy.

5. Guidance to the Licensing Act 2003

Prevention of Crime and Disorder Starting at Paragraph 2.1

And any other sections of the Guidance which Members consider to be relevant.

6. Members' Options

- consider whether the interim steps are appropriate for the promotion of the licensing objectives; and
- determine whether to withdraw or modify the steps taken.

- the senior officer's certificate that accompanied the application;
- the chief officer's representations (if any); and
- any representations made by the premises licence holder.

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