

Committee: Licensing & Environmental Health

Agenda Item

Date: 31 October 2017

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Title: Certification of a Film Classification

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Item for decision:
yes

Summary

1. This application is made for the classification of a film, required as a result of section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003, as it has not received a classification by the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC).

Recommendations

2. That the Committee consider and determine the application to classify the film "Littlebury" in accordance with the guidance from the British Board of Film Classifications.

Financial Implications

3. None.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

BBFC Classification Guidelines on age ratings
Council's Licensing Policy

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	None
Community Safety	The protection of children from harm is a licensing objective, and the primary purpose of film classification
Equalities	None
Health and Safety	None
Human Rights/Legal Implications	None

Sustainability	None
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. By virtue of Section 20 of the Licensing Act 2003, where a premises licence authorises the exhibition of films, a mandatory condition is placed on the licence requiring the admission of children to films to be restricted in accordance with the recommendations of a film classification body (the British Board of Film Classification “BBFC”), or the local authority.
7. If a film has not been classified by British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) it must not be shown at a licensed premise without first having been classified by the local Authority as the premises licence holder cannot comply with the mandatory condition of Section 20.
8. Therefore where films have not previously been classified by the BBFC, the Local Authority, as Licensing Authority, are the classification body for the public exhibition of films shown within their administrative area, , .
9. The Council’s Licensing Policy at 6.8 says Uttlesford District Council will follow the classification system of the BBFC to determine the classification of films.
10. A copy of the BBFC guidelines on age ratings and BBFC notes on specific ratings are attached to this report.
11. The licensing section received an application on 14 September 2017 from Saffron Screen for the classification of an unclassified film called “Littlebury”. The film running time is 90 minutes and is a moving film of Littlebury which assembles historic and contemporary images. These unique pictures are threaded through the seasonal changes of a farming parish, showing its altering villages as the backdrop for work, local events, moments of joy and affecting poignancy covering over a century.
12. Saffron Screen benefits from a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003 issued April 2006 which includes the licensable activity relating to the exhibition of indoor films.
13. The committee may give approval for the film to be shown to all ages or subject to age restrictions it thinks appropriate.
14. No formal consultation has taken place regarding this application.