Part 1 – Release to Press

Stevenage BOROUGH COUNCIL

Agenda item:

Meeting	Licensing Committee
Portfolio Area	Communities, Community Safety and Equalities
Date	18th March 2026

APPLICATION TO VARY THE SPECIFIED DESIGNATED PREMISES SUPERVISOR OF BOROUGH WINES (FORMALLY THE OVAL WINES), 9 THE OVAL, STEVENAGE, SG1 1HF

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1 PURPOSE

1.1 To determine an application for the Variation of Specified Designated Premises Supervisor at Borough Wines (The Oval Wines), 9 The Oval, Stevenage, SG1 1HF. Senior Licensing Officer Gillian Akroyd, on behalf of Hertfordshire Constabulary, has made representations.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee reviews the evidence presented by the responsible authority and the applicant. The licensing authority must restrict its consideration to the issue of crime and disorder and if it considers it necessary, reject the application for this variation, or grant the variation.

3 SUMMARY OF APPLICATION

3.1 The current premises licence holder of Borough Wines, 9 The Oval, Stevenage SG1 1HF, Mr Emrah Oruc, submitted through a licensing agent, an application to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor from Polat Hasan to Emrah Oruc on 5th February 2026. **A copy of the application and consent form are attached at Appendix A.**

3.2 On 16th February 2026 Senior Licensing Officer (SLO) Gillian Akroyd, submitted a representation to this application stating that Mr E Oruc being the new proposed DPS would undermine the crime prevention objective Section 37 (5) Licensing Act 2003. **A copy of the Police Objection notice is attached at Appendix B and continuation notes at Appendix B1 and Appendix B2.**

3.3 This application to vary the DPS was accepted as valid and duly made by the Council on Thursday 5th February 2026.

4 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4.1 The Borough Wines (formerly Oval Wines) is located in the shopping precinct at The Oval, Stevenage. It has a premises licence in place which authorises the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, Monday to Sunday between the hours of 07:00hrs and 23:00hrs. **A copy of the Premises Licence and plan are attached at Appendix D**

4.2 The Police applied to the Council for the review of the Premises Licence for The Oval Wines on 25th October 2024 for failing to promote all four of the licence objectives. The application for review was heard by the licensing committee on 19th December 2024.

4.3 The committee during the review of the Premises licence accepted that there was evidence of multiple incidents of breeches of licence including supply/sales of illegal/illicit products, evidence of drugs paraphernalia and residue of cocaine in various public and private areas of the premises.

4.4 The premises have failed to observe their licensing conditions attached to the Premises Licence for The Oval Wines, predominantly Annex 2 Condition 1 which refers to the requirement for a digital CCTV system recording images which will be retained in an unedited form for up to 30 days and which shall be made available to any responsible authority upon request, however on multiple occasions when Police have requested CCTV footage it has been unavailable. The Designated Premises Supervisor at the time, Polat Hasan has also failed to make himself available to Police.

4.5 Trading Standards officers have recently seized illegal items from these premises. On two occasions Trading Standards Officer recovered illegal products from The Oval Wines including tobacco pouches, a number of cartons of cigarettes and a number of Viagra jellies, which can only be obtained following a consultation with a pharmacist.

4.6 The proposed DPS and Premises Licence holder Mr Oruc identified himself on CCTV footage as being present and gesturing known gang members who had

been seen armed with machetes and knives however, he had not previously identified himself as being a witness when Police had approached him at the premises requesting CCTV footage as per the conditions of the premises licence, nor did he call the Police at the time of the incident.

4.7 The decision of the committee at the review hearing on 19th December 2024 was to revoke the premises licence in its entirety. **Notes and matters of fact relating to the hearing can be found in the decision notice which is attached at Appendix C.** This decision is being appealed and due to be heard at Stevenage Magistrates Court on 7th May 2026.

4.8 The proposed Designated Premises Supervisor, Mr Oruc who is also the licence holder had applied to vary the DPS to himself with immediate effect on 17th December 2024. An objection was received by police on 23rd December as they believe the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard by the licensing committee on 24th January 2025 however the application was withdrawn by the applicant on 21st January 2025.

4.9 A second identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 21st January 2025. Again, an objection was received by police on 21st January as they believe the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard by the licensing committee on 17th February 2025 however the application was withdrawn by the applicant on 14th February 2025.

4.10 This third identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was also received on 14th February 2025. Again, an objection was received by police on 14th February as they still believe that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard by the licensing committee on 3rd March 2025 however the application was withdrawn by the applicant on 28th February 2025.

4.11 The fourth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was also received on 28th February 2025. Again, an objection was received by Police on 29th February 2025 as they still believe that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard on 27th March 2025 however the application was withdrawn on 26th March 2025.

4.12 The fifth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was also received on 26th March 2025. Again, an objection was received by Police on 27th March 2025 as they still believe that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard on 11th April 2025 however the application was withdrawn on 9th April 2025.

4.13 The sixth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was also received on 9th April 2025. Again, an objection was received by Police on 10th April 2025 as they still believe that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard on 21st May 2025 however the application was withdrawn on 19th May 2025.

4.14 The seventh identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was also received on 19th May 2025. Again, an objection was received by Police on 19th May 2025 as they still believe that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard on 8th July 2025 however the application was withdrawn on 7th July 2025.

4.15 The eighth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 7th July 2025. An objection was received by Police on 16th July 2025 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. The matter was due to be heard on 18th August 2025 however the application was withdrawn on 14th August 2025.

4.16 An application for a Minor Variation to the Premises Licence for The Oval Wines was accepted which proposed to remove 4 conditions and add 16 additional conditions. On 15th August 2025 an Objection to this application was received from Hertfordshire Police on the basis that it would fail to prevent crime and disorder. Also on 15th August 2025, Hertfordshire County Councils Trading Standards submitted an objection to this application on the basis that it would fail to prevent crime and disorder and to fail to protect children from harm. The Licensing Authority was satisfied that granting this minor variation would, on balance, adversely affect the premises' ability to promote all four of the licensing objectives, therefore the application for a minor variation to the premises licence for these premises was refused on 19th August 2025.

4.17 The ninth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 14th August 2025. An objection was received by Police on 27th August 2025 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. This matter was due to be heard on 22nd September however the application was withdrawn on 19th September 2025.

4.18 The tenth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 19th September 2025. An objection was received by Police on 22nd September 2025 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. This matter was due to be heard on 25th November however the application was withdrawn on 24th November 2025.

4.19 The eleventh identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 24th November 2025. An objection was received by Police on 4th December 2025 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. This

matter was due to be determined by committee on 5th January 2026 however the application was withdrawn on 1st January 2026.

4.20 On 2nd December the Appeal was due to be heard at Stevenage Magistrates Court however it was adjourned and relisted for 7th and 8th May 2026 to allow sufficient court time for this matter to be decided upon by the magistrates.

4.21 The twelfth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Oruc was received on 1st January 2026. An objection was received by Police on 12th January 2026 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective. This matter was due to be determined by committee on 9th February 2026 however the application was withdrawn on 5th February 2026.

4.22 The thirteenth identical application to vary the DPS to Mr Ocuc was received on 5th February 2026. An objection was received by Police on 16th February 2026 as they still believed that the appointment of Mr Oruc as designated premises supervisor, would undermine the crime prevention objective which is now bought before this committee for consideration.

5 RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES

5.1 Representations to vary the Designated Premises Supervisor can only be made by the Police, who may object to the designation of the new DPS where in exceptional circumstances, they believe that the appointment would undermine the crime prevention objective.

5.2 An additional statement was provided by Police on 8th August 2025, following a complaint by a local resident in respect of the premises selling alcohol to a drunk person contrary to Section 141 Licensing Act 2003. This and a second exhibiting statement is **attached at Appendix F.**

5.3 An additional E Mail was submitted on 9th September 2025 from the SLO Akroyd regarding requests from Police requiring CCTV from Mr Oruc which had not be provided and is **attached at Appendix G1.**

5.4 PCSO Brickett provided a statement outlining a visit to obtain CCTV from Oval Wines on 9th September 2025 which is **attached at Appendix G2.**

5.5 SLO Akroyd sent a warning letter dated 16th September 2025 to Mr Oruc following the failure to provide CCTV to Police and is **attached at Appendix G3.**

5.6 PC Brown provided a statement outlining a visit to obtain CCTV from Oval Wines on 21st August 2025 which is **attached at Appendix G4**

5.7 PCSO Davison provided a statement summarising the viewing of CCTV provided to Police in October 2025 relating to the date and time of 11th July 2025 between 18:00-19:00hrs. Of the 36 files provided for that hour there were 44 minutes of footage missing. **Attached at Appendix G5**

5.8 PC Pickering provided a statement regarding an altercation at the premises between two drunk males on 9th September 2025 which is **attached at Appendix H**

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial or resource implications arising from the content of this report.

6.2 Legal Implications

6.2.1 The Committee is advised that paragraphs 4.69 - 4.71 of Section 182 Guidance for the Licensing Act 2003 describe the powers of a Licensing Authority on the determination of an application the decision of the committee is subject to appeal at Magistrates Court.

6.2.2 The committee under Section 39 (89) Licensing Act 2003, must if it considers necessary, reject the application.

6.2.3 The committee must under Section 39 (90) notify the applicant, police and new DPS and must give reasons for its decision.

6.3 Policy Implications

There are no policy implications.

6.4 Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.4.1 Any decision by the Committee is based on evidence before it at the meeting; there are no equalities and diversity implications.

7 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

BD1 Licensing Act 2003 (Section 39 Determination of Section 37 Application)
BD2 Guidance issued under section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003

BD3 Statement of Licensing Policy 2025-2030

8 SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

8.1 On 12th February 2025, the Police forwarded an email from PC Steven Hill, who had taken a statement from an ex-employee of Oval Wines in relation to Mr Emrah Oruc, owner and premises licence holder of Oval Wines and attached at **Appendix E**.

9 APPENDICES

A Application to vary Designated Premises Supervisor

B Police Objection to Variation of Designated Premises Supervisor

C Decision Notice – Revocation of Premises Licences for Oval Wines

D Current Premises Licence and Plan

E Supplementary Information – Witness statement from ex-employee.

F Witness Statement from a Local resident referred to in the Police Objection to the application to Vary the DPS.

G1 Supplementary Information – E mail from Police relating to requests for CCV

G2 Statement re No CCTV – PCSO Brickett 09.09.25

G3 Police Warning Letter re No CCTV 16.09.25

G4 Statement re No CCTV – PC Brown 21.08.25

G5 Statement re CCTV Viewing PCSO Davison - 44minutes missing 11.07.25

H Statement re an Altercation at the Premises Between Two Drunk Males – PC Pickering 09.09.25