

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	12th December 2017
Subject:	Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee		
Report Of:	Head of Place		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
	For Information		
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Appendices:	1. Licensing Forward Plan		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline to Members, details of key Licensing Activities carried out in the last quarter (July to September 2017), including applications and service requests received, details of any enforcement work, progress updates of our work plan and any changes in Licensing Law.
- 1.2 To seek suggestions from members as ways to improve the format and content of this report.

2.0 Recommendations

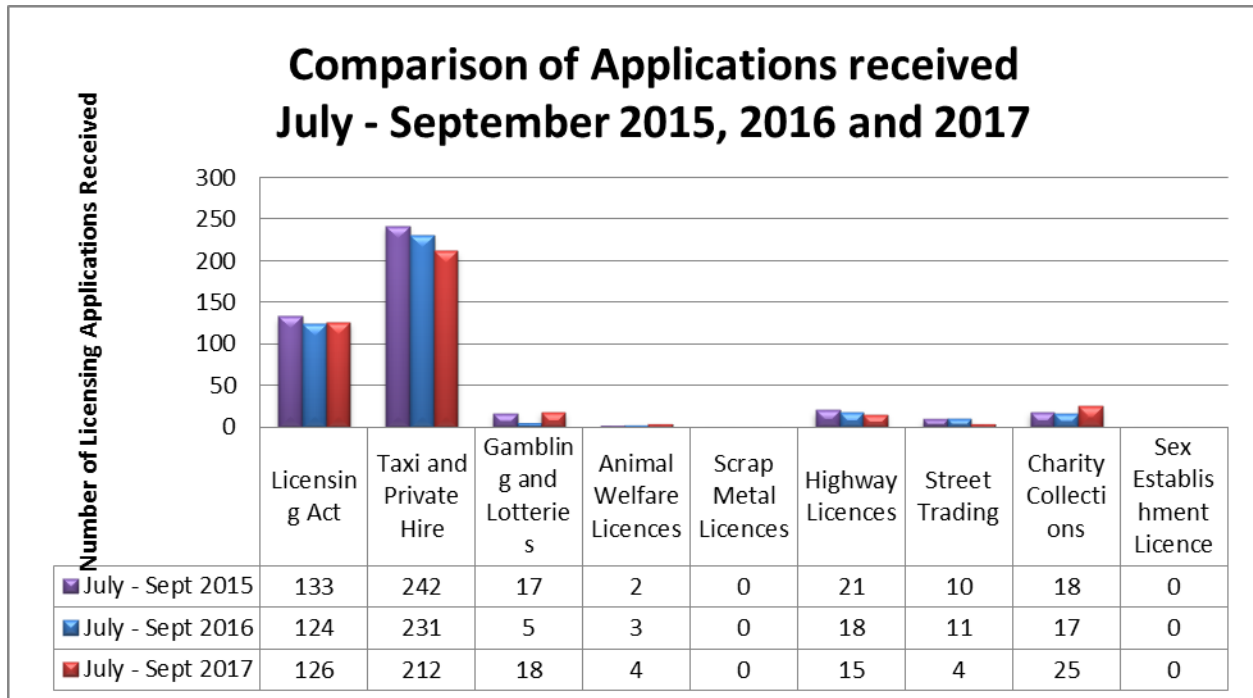
- 2.1 Members of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee note the contents of this report.

3.0 Updates on Licensing Activities in the last Quarter

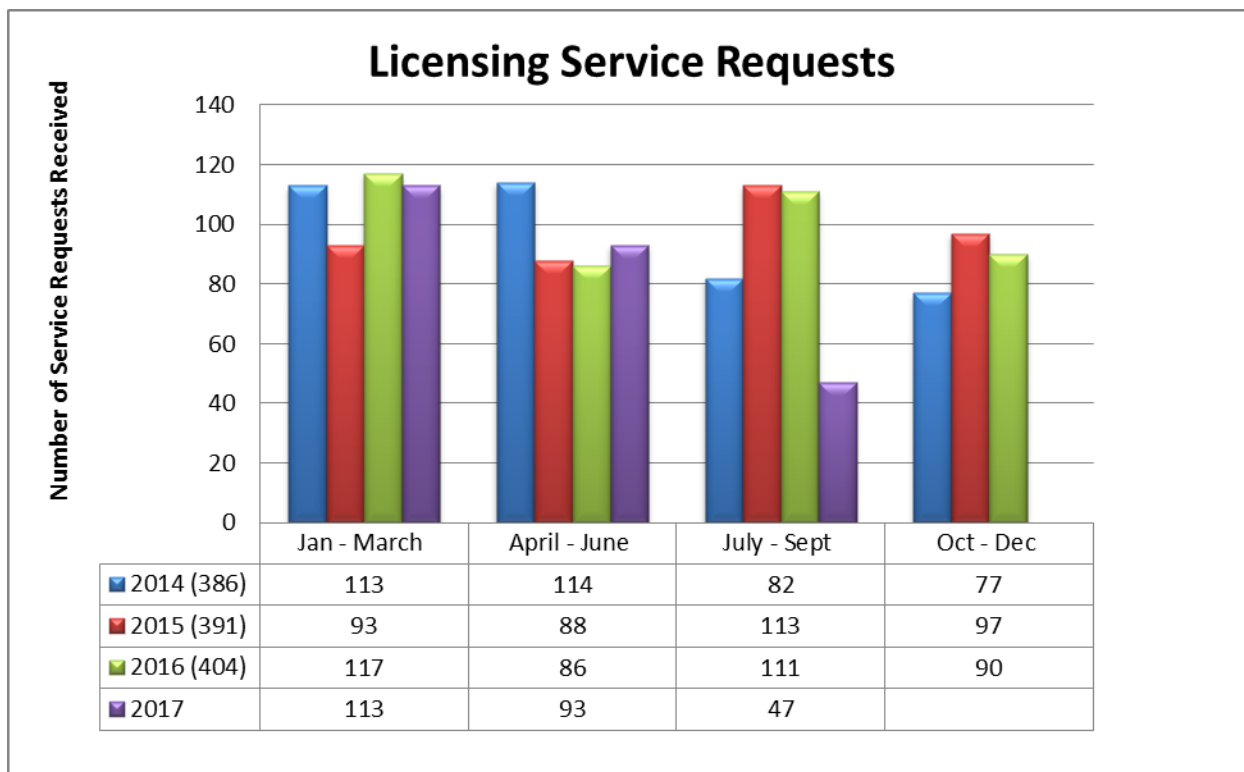
- 3.1 During this quarter, the licensing functions were carried out by the City Centre Improvement and Community Wellbeing Teams.

New Licensing Applications

- 3.2 Between 1st July 2017 and 30th September 2017 a total of 404 licensing applications were received, this is 20 less than we received in the previous quarter (April to June 2017)
- 3.3 The graph below illustrates the number of applications received between July and September 2017 in comparison to 2016 and 2015.



- 3.4 In addition to the administration of licensing applications a number of service requests are also received. These can consist of complaints and enquiries about various Licensing matters. The graph below compares the numbers received per quarter during 2014, 2015 and 2016. Over the last three years the total number of service requests received has reduced. This is clearly seen when comparing the service requests received between April and June 2017 with previous years for that period.



4.0 Enforcement Work

Sub-Committees Held between August 2017 and November 2017

Taxi and Private Hire Hearing (One Hearing)

- 4.1 On the 25th October 2017 three applications were referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee. Two were Private Hire Vehicle licence applications and the other was for a new Private Hire Drivers Licence. The Vehicles were referred to the Sub-Committee as they were over the Council’s age criteria. Members decided not to depart from the policy and refused both of the applications. The Private Hire Driver applicant was referred to the Sub-Committee to consider their fit and proper status. Members refused the application on the grounds that the applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Drivers Licence.

Licensing Act Sub-Committee Hearings and review.

On the 17th August 2017 the Premise Licence at One Stop, 107 Southgate Street, Gloucester was reviewed following an application from Gloucestershire Trading Standards. The Licensing Sub-Committee decided to revoke the Premises Licence.

On 4th October 2017 following a Police representation the Licensing Sub-Committee heard an application for a Premise Licence at 94 Eastgate Street, Gloucester. The Licensing Sub-Committee decided to grant a Premises Licence.

Out of Hours Enforcement

4.2 Taxi and Private Hire Enforcement

City Centre Improvement Officers have continued to monitor activities of drivers and conditions of their vehicles. Since 1st January 2017 a total of 148 penalty points were issued for reasons including failure to notify us of convictions/cautions, failure to declare DVLA penalty points/convictions, failure to display bus lane stickers, insurance stickers and approved door panels.

In comparison, the total number of penalty points issued during 2016 was 244. Where 12 or more points are issued, the Licence holder will be referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee for a disciplinary hearing. Some infringements can incur 12 points at one time, e.g. plying for hire.

4.3 Licensed Premises

The City Centre Improvement Officers have a close working relationship with the Police and Environmental Protection and regularly share information to ensure compliance at licensed premises.

15 premises signed up to the Best Bar None Scheme. All of the assessments were completed in October and November. The awards dinner is scheduled for the middle of January 2018

Other Enforcement work

- 4.4 City Centre Improvement Officers continue to work with Special Constables and have a couple of operations scheduled in December and January. The Specials are part of a pro-active road safety and enforcement team. This looks at speed, seatbelts, mobile phone, standards of driving amongst many other things. These shifts are spent looking at the licensed vehicle fleet.

5.0 Legislative Updates

- 5.1 None

6.0 Future Work

6.1 Safeguarding Training

The last free Safeguarding Awareness Training took place on 28th November in Gloucester. A total of nine training sessions were held between August and November. Out of the 400 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers only 40 failed to book onto the training. Two 'mop up' sessions have been organised in Cheltenham. One on 6th December and the other on 13th December. Letters have been sent to these drivers making them aware that if they fail to go on the training then their drivers licence will be suspended after the 31st December. This will be until such time they have taken the training. The next training will be towards the end of January and the cost will be around £30.

7.0 **Forward work plan and Conclusions**

7.1 The table in appendix 1 outlines our proposed work plan for Full Licensing and Enforcement Committee meetings over the next 3 years. As the years goes on, additional matters may need to be brought to Members attention or further requests may be presented for decision. However, the items listed illustrate expected matters that are scheduled for consideration Committee dates are in **bold** and shaded grey.

7.2 At each quarterly Licensing and Enforcement Committee meeting, we will continue to update Members on any activities carried out in the last quarter, this will include a summary of what has happened in the team, including number of new Licences, any enforcement work carried out and details of any appeals or prosecutions held, the outcomes of those hearings and any further court cases pending.

8.0 **Financial Implications**

8.1 There are no financial implications attached to the recommendations in this report.

(Financial Services have been consulted in preparing this report.)

9.0 **Legal Implications**

9.1 There are none at this time.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 **Risk & Opportunity Management Implications**

10.1 In Compliance with the Council's risk management strategy any decisions made which are unreasonable or unlawful could be open to legal challenge resulting in

loss of image, reputation and potential financial penalty. There is no risk to the Authority connected to this report, as it is for information only.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 There are no key decisions included in this report.

11.2 A separate PIA will be carried out for each Policy when it is brought before the Licensing and Enforcement Committee.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 None

Sustainability

12.2 None

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 None

Background Documents: None