

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	14 March 2019
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 (October to December 2018), 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

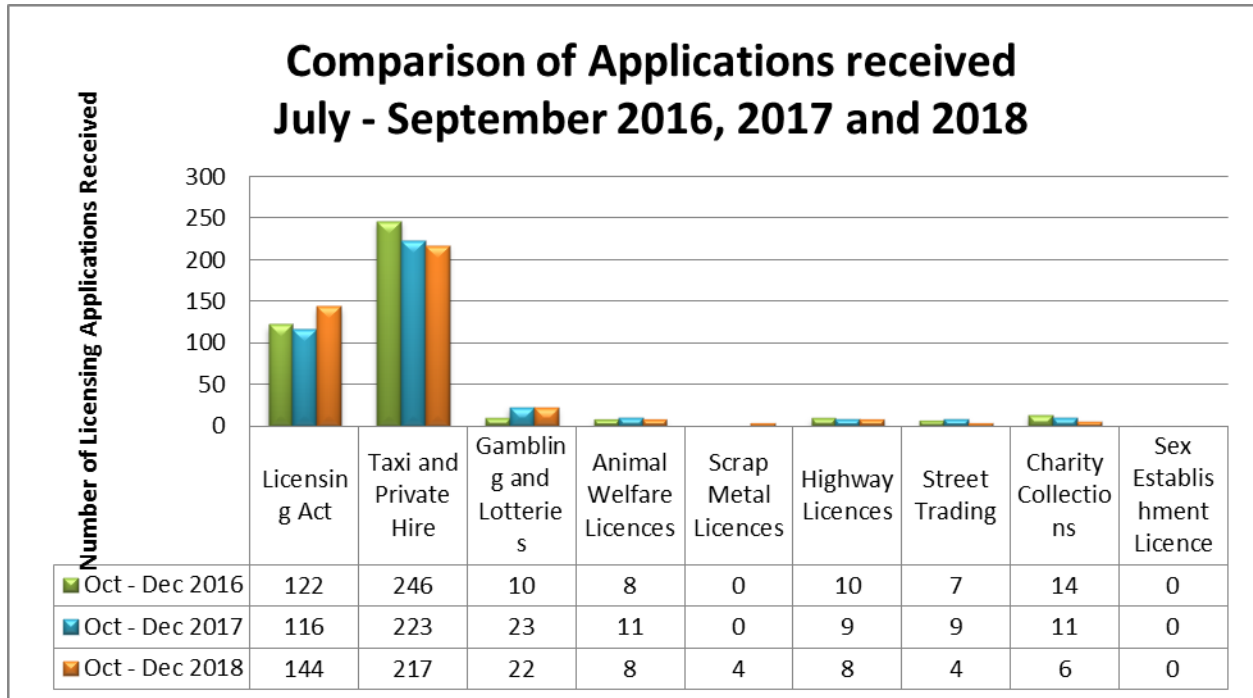
- 2.1 Members of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee note the contents of this report.

3.0 Updates on Licensing Activities in the last Quarter

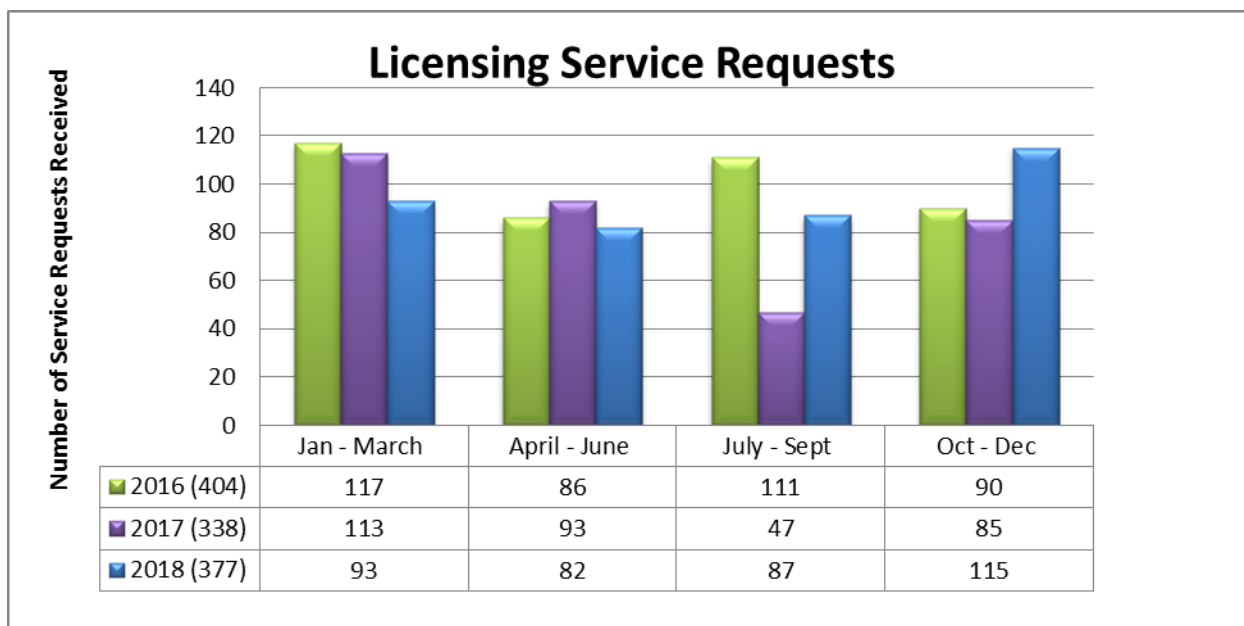
- 3.1 During this quarter, the licensing functions were carried out by the City Centre Improvement and Community Wellbeing Teams.

New Licensing Applications

- 3.2 Between 1st October and 31st December 2018 a total of 413 licensing applications were received, this is 58 more than we received in the previous quarter (July to September 2018).
- 3.3 The graph below illustrates the number of applications received between October and December 2018 in comparison to 2016 and 2017.



- 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 2016, 2017 and 2018.



4.0 Enforcement Work

Sub-Committees Held between September and November 2018

Taxi and Private Hire Hearing (one Hearing)

- 4.1 On the 13th December 2018 an existing driver was referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee to question whether they continued to be a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Drivers Licence. This was because the driver had received 14 Council internal penalty points within a 12 month period. Members resolved that the Private Hire Driver's Licence be suspended for a minimum of seven days to enable the driver to attend the Council Offices to be examined on their knowledge of the Rule Books.

Out of Hours and daytime Enforcement

- 4.2 Taxi and Private Hire Enforcement

City Centre Improvement Officers have continued to monitor activities of drivers and conditions of their Licence. Since the last update in December a further 76 penalty points were issued to drivers for reasons including failure to notify us of convictions/cautions, failure to declare DVLA penalty points/convictions, failure to display approved door panels, Hackney Carriage drivers leaving their vehicle unattended on the Hackney Carriage rank and Private Hire vehicles parking on the Hackney Carriage rank.

In total the number of penalty points issued during 2018 was 613. 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. City Centre Improvement Officers have carried out inspections of licensed premises and also visited licensed premises where payment of the annual fee has not been paid.

Again during the last quarter City Centre Improvement Officers have worked with Immigration Officers and visited a number of premises within Gloucester.

City Centre Improvement Officers have also worked on operations with the Police undertaking test purchasing on licensed premises.

Best Bar None

Licensed premises came together on the night of Tuesday 22 January 2019 to celebrate the accreditation of the city's pubs, bars, restaurants and nightclubs to the annual Best Bar None scheme. BBN is a national award scheme aimed at responsible management & operation of alcohol licensed premises.

Seventeen businesses were recognised for their commitment to promoting responsible drinking and proving a vibrant and safe environment for their customers and staff. Best Bar None is a countrywide accreditation scheme with national awards supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry. This year, the awards ceremony was held at Gloucester Guildhall alongside a gala dinner. Winners were announced for individual categories including Best Chain Pub, Best Independent Pub and Best Food Experience; before the best overall winners were announced.

The full list of winners:

Gold Award 2019 – Butlers Venue Bar
Silver Award 2019 – Gloucester Guildhall
Bronze Award 2019 – Atik - Gloucester

Best Chain Pub – The Abbey
Best Independent Pub – Tank
Best Chain Late Bar / Club – Atik – Gloucester
Best Independent Late Bar / Club – Butlers Venue Bar
Best Family / Community Pub – Turmut Hoer
Best Small Local Pub – Angies
Best Food Experience – Portivo Lounge

Best Newcomer BBN 2019 – The Abbey

Accredited Venues:

The Abbey	Angies
Atik – Gloucester	Bumble Bee
Butlers Venue Bar	The Chambers
Fox & Elm	Gloucester Guildhall
The Lord High Constable of England	Miller & Carter – Gloucester
One Eyed Jacks	Pike & Musket
Portivo Lounge	The Regal
Tank	Turmut Hoer
Wagon and Horses	

Animal Welfare

The Community Wellbeing Team will be presenting a report on the proposed Animal Welfare fees to the next Licensing and Enforcement Committee in March 2019. They have been dealing with lots of enquiries regarding applications and have inspected many premises since the Animal Welfare Regulations came into force in 2018.

5.0 Legislative Updates

None

6.0 Future Work

None

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.

(One Legal 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