

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Licensing and Enforcement Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 March 2021</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Head of Place</b>		
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	<b>All</b>		
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Budget/Policy Framework:</b>	<b>No</b>
	<b>For Information</b>		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Darren Mountford, City Centre Improvement Officer (Licensing Lead)</b>		
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<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1. Licensing Forward Plan</b>		

## FOR GENERAL RELEASE

### 1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To outline to Members, details of key Licensing Activities carried out from 1 December 2020 to 28 February 2021, 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.

## **Licensing Applications**

- 3.2 Between 1 December 2020 and 28 February 2021 a total of 235 licensing applications were received,
- 3.3 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.

## **4.0 Enforcement Work**

### **Sub-Committees Held between December 2020 and February 2021**

#### *Taxi and Private Hire Hearing (One Hearing)*

- 4.1 On 16 December 2020 a new Private Hire Vehicle Licence application was referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee. The application was referred to the Sub-Committee as the vehicle was over the age specification. The vehicle was previously licensed with Gloucester City Council. The owner of this vehicle was unable to renew their licence due to unforeseen circumstances. Members decided on this occasion to depart from their policy and grant the Private Hire Vehicle Licence. Members gave detailed reasons to why they granted the application.
- 4.2 On the 3 February 2021 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 18 Council internal penalty points within a 12 month period. Members resolved that the Private Hire Driver was issued with a written warning and that they undertake a driving assessment at their expense.

### **Out of Hours and daytime Enforcement**

#### **4.2 Taxi and Private Hire Enforcement**

Officers have been working with Private Hire Operators so that their records are being kept up to date as per the approved rule books.

#### **4.3 Licensed Premises**

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

Premises have continued to be monitored where reports have been received of social distancing measures not being adhered to.

Officers have continued to work with the Police and visited off licences to make sure that they are complying with their licence conditions and that all their paperwork is up to date.

Officers have been working with the Police and Trading Standards in and around the Kingsholm area and are currently investigating a number of complaints.

Officers are working with partners and the trade in preparation for when they are able to open following the Governments Road Map.

## **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 12 months. As the year 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