

# Gloucester City Council

<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Licensing and Enforcement Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>15 June 2021</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee</b>		
<b>Report Of:</b>	<b>Head of Communities</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, Licensing Team Leader</b>		
	<b>Email:</b>	<b>darren.mountford@gloucester.gov.uk</b>	<b>Tel: 396240</b>
<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 March 2021 to 25 May 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 Licensing and Community Wellbeing Teams.

## **Licensing Applications**

- 3.2 Between 1 March 2021 and 25 May 2021 a total of 273 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 March 2021 and May 2021**

#### Taxi and Private Hire Hearing

- 4.1 On 23 March 2021 a new Private Hire Driver Licence application was referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee. The applicant was referred to the Sub-Committee to consider whether they were a fit and proper person. Members refused the application as they considered the applicant not to be fit and proper person to be the holder of a Private Hire Drivers Licence.

#### Licensing Act 2003 Review Hearing

- 4.2 On 1 April 2021 the Licensing Sub-Committee heard an application to review the Premises Licence at Wellington Stores made by Gloucestershire Constabulary. The Licensing Sub-Committee resolved to revoke the Premise Licence.

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

#### 4.3 Taxi and Private Hire Enforcement

Licensing Officers have continued to monitor activities of drivers and conditions of their Licence by issuing penalty points for failure to display door signs and not displaying their plates in the correct manner.

#### 4.4 Licensed Premises

Licensing 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. Three premises are currently in the consultation stage following applications to review their Premises Licences.

Officers are working with partners and the trade in preparation for when they are able to open following the Governments Road Map on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

#### 4.5 Gambling Act

Review of the Statement of Principles Policy – The consultation runs from 3 June to 12 August 2021. Report will go to the Licensing & Enforcement Committee on 14 September 2021 and Full Council for approval on 18 November 2021 and will be published on the website on or by 31 January 2022.

#### 4.6 Scrap Metal Act

Policy remains fit for purpose at this time, but will be kept under review and if there are any changes to the legislation that will affect the policy we will review it then. The price of scrap has increased, and we have had several reports of unlicensed collectors in Gloucester so we will be looking to arrange a multi-agency operation involving the Police, EA and VOSA in the near future.

#### 4.7 Animal Welfare Act

Two Unlicensed Dog Breeding establishments are currently being investigated. Two Community Wellbeing Officers have completed the online and practical sessions for the City and Guilds Level 3 Certificate in Inspecting Licensable Activities Involving Animals. By gaining this qualification will enable the Officers to undertake inspections of animal establishments.

### 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