

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	14 September 2021
Subject:	Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee		
Report Of:	Head of Communities		
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 from 1 June 2021 to 31st August 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 June 2021 and 31st August 2021 a total of **314** 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 June 2021 and August 2021

Licensing Act 2003 Review Hearing

- 4.1 On 1 July 2021 the Licensing Sub-Committee heard an application to review the Premises Licence at Sedoos Stop, 25 London Road, Gloucester made by Gloucestershire Constabulary. During the mediation period Gloucestershire Constabulary and the agent representing the Premises Licence Holder agreed 16 conditions. These Conditions were presented to the Licensing Sub-Committee during the meeting and the Committee resolved to modify the conditions of the Premises Licence as per the 16 conditions put forward by Gloucestershire Constabulary and agreed by those representing Sedoos. Apart from one condition where Committee amended the ABV from 9% to 7.5% for the sale of Beer, Lager and Cider in line with the other stores in the area.
- 4.2 On 29 July 2021 the Licensing Sub-Committee heard an application to review the Premises Licence at WAG 3, 38 Bristol Road, Gloucester made by Gloucestershire Trading Standards. The Licensing Sub-Committee resolved to issue a general warning about how the Licence Holder conducts their business and to suspend the licence for a period of 21 days.

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 Licences not being adhered to.

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

Officers have been visiting premises where annual fees have not been paid.

4.5 Gambling Act

- Officers will restart pro-active inspections now businesses have opened up again.
- Statement of principles has been reviewed and consulted on and a report will be going to L&E on 14 September and Full Council on 18 November for approval.
- Central Government are carrying out a review of the Gambling Act 2005, a report following their findings will be published in 2021.
- Currently we have 13 Betting Shops, 2 Bingo Premises and 1 pending and 3 Adult Gaming Centres (AGC's) licensed.

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.

There is a new requirement from April 2022 requiring applicants for a scrap metal dealers licences, sites and collectors to carry out a tax check by providing information to HMRC, which will include a question about whether income from the licensed activity has been declared to HMRC, where the applicant is chargeable to tax. HMRC will provide information to Councils on achieving this shortly.

4.7 Animal Welfare Act

One Unlicensed Dog Breeding establishments is 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.

Officers have been working on updating Gloucester City Councils website with Covid guidelines and a link provided to CFSG which has all the latest government guidelines.

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