

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	13 June 2023
Subject:	Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee		
Report Of:	Director of Communities		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
	For Information		
Contact Officer:	Darren Mountford, Licensing Team Leader		
	Email:	darren.mountford@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396240
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 March 2023 to 31 May 2023, 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 2023 and 31 May 2023 a total of 313 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 September 2022 and November 2022

Taxi and Private Hire Hearing

- 4.1 On 10 May 2023 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. 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.

Licensing Act 2003 Hearing

- 4.2 None

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. Officers have issued Council internal penalty points to drivers for failing to display their vehicle plates in the right position, failing to notify the council of speeding offences and not displaying their door panels.

- 4.4 Licensing Officers worked in partnership with officers from Gloucestershire County Council and attended a school premises where Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles are given contracts by Gloucestershire County Council to convey school children from their homes to the school. The purpose of the operation was to carry out inspections on these vehicles, making sure that they are adhering to their conditions of licence for both Gloucester City and County Councils. Additional checks were also made ensuring that the vehicles were road worthy e.g., tyres, lights and that the vehicle was in a good condition.
- 4.5 During the Operation, 7 Gloucester City Council licensed vehicles were checked.

4.6 One Private Hire Vehicle was found not displaying their front licence plate. Appropriate action was taken in that penalty points were issued against the driver.

4.7 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. Officers have also worked with Immigration Officers and visited licensed premises within the City.

4.8 Table and Chairs and A-Boards

Licensing Officers are continuing to undertake inspections of premises on the Gate Streets to ascertain if premises that have table and chairs and A-Boards outside have the appropriate permissions. This has resulted in applications being made.

4.9 Street Trading

Licensing Officers have been visiting Street traders to make sure that they are adhering to their Consent conditions.

4.10 Animal Licensing

DEFRA have extended the date for when licensing inspectors must become qualified. This date has been extended to 1st October 2023.

4.11 Gambling Act 2005

The Government published its white paper on gambling reform on 27 April 2023. The white paper titled 'High stakes: gambling reform for the digital age' sets out the government's plan for reform of gambling regulation following the review of the Gambling Act 2005.

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