

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Licensing and Enforcement Committee	Date:	12 December 2023
Subject:	Members Update for Licensing and Enforcement Committee		
Report Of:	Corporate Director		
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 September 2023 to 30 November 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 September 2023 and 30 November 2023 a total of 322 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 2023 and November 2023

Taxi and Private Hire Hearing

- 4.1 On 5 October 2023 a new Private Hire Drivers Licence application was referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Sub-Committee. The application was referred to the Sub-Committee to determine whether the applicant was a fit and proper person. Members resolved that the applicant was a fit and proper person and granted the application for a new Private Hire Drivers Licence.

On 5 October 2023 a new Hackney Carriage 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 Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence. Members gave detailed reasons to why they granted the application.

On 22 November 2023 an application to extend a Private Hire Vehicle Licence was referred to the Licensing and Enforcement Committee. The application was referred to the Sub-Committee as the applicant wanted to extend their Private Hire Vehicle Licence past 31 December 2023. Members decided on this occasion to depart from their policy and extend the Private Hire Vehicle Licence for a further 11 months. Members gave detailed reasons to why they extended the licence.

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 and for using a hand held device whilst driving.

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. Officers have visited a number of premises over the last few months undertaking risk assessments and making sure they are adhering to the conditions of licence.

Officers have also been working with the Sundry Debtors Team to discuss unpaid invoices of annual fees and where appropriate have visited the premises to cover any debt owed.

5.0 **Legislative Updates**

On 17 November 2023 the government updated the best practice guidance. For more information, please click on the link below: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-calls-on-councils-to-make-taxis-and-private-hire-vehicles-more-accessible>

As part of this guidance, it mentions that Council's look to make Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles more accessible.

Members will be aware that they approved a new wheelchair assessable vehicle (WAV's) policy at the Licensing and Enforcement Committee in September.

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