

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO : LICENSING COMMITTEE 18 July 2018

TITLE : UPDATE ON THE WORK OF PUBLIC PROTECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the work of the Council's Public Protection and Environmental Health Service (PPS) where there is a connection with businesses and persons who require a licence from the Council. It also provides an update for members on national policy changes and proposals affecting licencing work.

This report covers the time period May and June 2018.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the report.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Taxi Safety Operations

On Friday 11 May a multi-agency taxi enforcement operation was carried out. In total 14 licensed vehicles were inspected by a vehicle examiner from the Council's MOT testing station. 1 vehicle with tyres below the legal limit was immediately stopped from working as a private hire vehicle. Five drivers were given 7 days to put right more minor faults. The vehicle owners are required to present their vehicles to the Council for the repairs to be checked.

3.2 Sale of alcohol to children

An under-age sales test purchasing operation took place on 19 June with 8 off-licences being checked following intelligence being received. Of these, two sales took place to the under-age volunteer.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the best course of action to deal with those who have sold alcohol to children.

3.3 Takeaway visits

Late evening visits have been made to a number of takeaways in Blackburn to check on whether they need a licence. Businesses who sell hot food between 11pm and 5am need a licence to do so and must pay an annual fee to maintain the licence.

3.4 Joint working

Licensing staff continue to support partner agencies on joint operations. In recent weeks this has been with the Environment Agency at a scrap metal business and the Home Office at a hot food takeaway. These businesses need licences to operate from the council.

3.5 Routine work carried out

The following table provides some of the key figures on work carried out by members of staff working in the Licensing Team from 1 May – 30 June 2018.

Vehicle licences processed	202
Driver licences processed	55
Licensing Act licences processed	14
Visits to new DPSs	12
Inspections of premises/vehicles carried out	88

3.6 National Issues

Fixed Odds Betting Terminals

An update on the Government's recent announcement that it will be reducing the maximum fixed odds betting terminal stake to £2 from the current £100 states that it will take place in 2020.

Sale of alcohol in airports

It has been reported that the Home Office is to carry out a consultation on regulating alcohol consumption at airports. The aim is to determine whether regulation of airside drinking is required following a sharp rise in alcohol-related disorder on flights.

4. RATIONALE

To inform members of the Licensing committee about the key work carried out by staff working within the Council's Public Protection and Environmental Health Service where there is a connection with businesses and people needing a licence from the Council. It also provides an update on some national licensing issues.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

9. CONSULTATIONS

None

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

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