

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS

ORIGINATING SECTION: PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO : LICENSING COMMITTEE DATE: 17 October 2023

TITLE : Update on the work of the 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.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That members note the report.

3. KEY ISSUES

3.1 Revocations/refusals

In quarter 2 of 2023/24, officers revoked 1 driver's licence and suspended 2 others under delegated powers.

The General Licensing Sub-Committees considered 4 applications for new Dual Driver Licences and refused to grant all 4 of them.

The Sub-Committees also considered 4 reviews of existing driver licences and revoked 2 and required the other 2 drivers to undertake further training.

3.2 Appeal results

Since the last Licensing Committee 1 appeal against the decision the general licensing sub-committees to revoke or refuse to grant driver licences have been concluded and the Magistrates Court upheld the council's decision.

3.3 Complaints to Licensing Team

In quarter 2 2023/24, 7 complaints had been made to the Licensing Team all of which related to driver conduct.

3.4 Compliance and Licensing Meetings

Officers have re-established the formal multi-agency meetings with Police and other Responsible Authorities to ensure that resources can be prioritised and used efficiently.

3.5 Vehicle operations

Public Protection Officers also joined forces with compliance officers from Hyndburn Council and Wolverhampton City Council, the Police and DVSA to carry out vehicle checks in Accrington last month.

Five Blackburn with Darwen licensed vehicles were stopped as part of the operation, 4 of which had compliance issues that were dealt with on the night including 1 that received a prohibition notice from the DVSA for vehicle defects.

A further operation is being planned with Police as part of their road safety campaign next month.

3.6 Preparation for bonfire night

Advice and guidance about running a safe bonfire event has been sent out to a number of licensed premises and venues. It includes information from the agencies who are part of the Borough's Event Safety Advisory Committee including Fire, Ambulance and Council.

3.7 Routine work carried out

The following table provides figures on some of the key work carried out from 1 July to 30 September 2023.

	Q2 23/24
Vehicle licences processed – hackney carriage and private hire	479
Driver licences processed – new and renewal applications	87
Licensing Act licences processed These are new licences, variations to existing licences and changes to designated premises supervisor	40
Temporary Event Notices processed	30
Animal Welfare Licences processed	1
Street trader	8

3.8 National Issues

The Alcohol Licensing (Coronavirus) (Regulatory Easements) (Amendment) Regulations 2023

After consulting on the removal of the automatic right to sell alcohol for consumption 'off' the premises that was introduced by the Business & Planning Act 2020, where it wasn't already permitted under a premises licence alongside 'on-sales', the Government initially indicated that they would be removing that entitlement. However in August they announced that they would in fact be extending the relaxation. These Regulations were published and effective from 28 September 2023 and extend the off-sales regulatory easement to 31 March 2025.

Pavement café licences

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities have laid the Regulations necessary to extend the Pavement Licensing regime under the Business and Planning Act 2020 for a 3rd time. Current licences must expire on 30 September 2023 at the latest, but when the amendments regulations are enacted, all new pavement café licences and

renewals issued under the Business & Planning Act 2020 will expired on 30 September 2024.

New Licensing scheme - Non-surgical cosmetic procedures

The Government is consulting on how to make non-surgical cosmetic procedures, including Botox, laser hair removal and dermal fillers, safer. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape a new licensing scheme for practitioners and cosmetic businesses which operate in England that will fall to Local Authorities to administer.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

None.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

8. CONSULTATIONS

None

9. CONTACT OFFICER

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