

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

1st July 2013

LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Rebecca Blake
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

To provide a report on the activities under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and other aspects of Licensing and to inform the Committee on any issues anticipated in the ensuing year as required under the Council's Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 Policies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to RESOLVE;

The contents of the licensing Annual Report 2012/1013 be noted.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

3.1 None.

Legal Implications

3.2 None

Service / Operational Implications

3.3 Since 1st June 2010 Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Team has taken over operational delivery of the statutory functions of licensing and enforcement of regulated activities and businesses operating under the Licensing Act 2003 on behalf of Redditch Borough Council. These functions cover premises which sell and supply alcohol, provide regulated entertainment and late night refreshment, gambling premises, gaming machines and lotteries. The Licensing Team also deals with the operation and administration of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles, drivers and Operator's licenses, Street and House to House Collections. The Council retains full policy and statutory responsibility for all licensing functions.

- 3.4 Under the terms of the Licensing Act 2003 and the Gambling Act 2005, each local authority is required to prepare and publish a licensing policy which has to be reviewed every five years. At the end of 2010 the review of the Licensing Act 2003 policy was completed with only minor changes having been made. The Gambling Act 2005 policy was reviewed during 2012 again with only minor amendments. It is anticipated that future reviews will further align the policies of the partner Councils.

Licensing Act 2003

- 3.5 The Licensing Act 2003 transferred the liquor licensing functions from the Magistrate's Court to the Local Authority and consolidated these activities with entertainment licensing legislation, the provision of late night refreshment, cinemas and theatres.
- 3.6 The number of new licenses issued and granted by Redditch Borough Council in the year 2012/2013 are:

Personal Licenses	New	40	Total	599
Premises Licenses	New	6	Total	228
Club Premises Certificates	New	1	Total	24
Temporary Event Notices			Total	72

- 3.7 The Licensing Sub Committee created by the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with applications, variations and reviews of licensed premises, met on four occasions during the year 2012/13 all within the statutory time limits – these were all new applications or variation applications where objections could not be mediated out.

Gambling Act 2005

- 3.8 Last year saw the continued implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. It replaced most of the existing law relating to gambling in Great Britain and much like the Licensing Act 2003 aimed to put in place an improved, more comprehensive structure of gambling regulation. Once implemented the Act transferred the licensing of gambling premises from the local Magistrates Court to the Council. The Licensing Team now issue premises licenses for the following; bingo halls, betting shops, adult gaming centres, family entertainment centres and casinos.

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3.9 The numbers of premises which have continued to be licensed by this Authority under the Gambling Act are:

Betting Premises	New	1	Total	11
Bingo Premises	New	0	Total	2
Adult Gaming Centres	New	0	Total	3
Family Entertainment Centres	New	0	Total	0
Casinos	New	0	Total	0

3.10 Again all yearly maintenance fees as set out in the Gambling Act 2003 which have been set by the Local Authority for the year ending 2012/13 have been received by the Authority.

Taxi Licensing

3.11 The Licensing Team is also responsible for the operational function of the licensing and enforcement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, drivers and Operators.

3.12 An Enforcement exercise in conjunction with VOSA, West Mercia Police and the Licensing Team showed that out of the vehicles stopped and examined at the Depot, no vehicles were found with serious faults, with minor issues dealt with by way of verbal warnings at the road side.

3.13 The number of licensed vehicles and drivers has remained fairly consistent and at present the following number of licenses are valid.

	11/12	12/13
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	202	202
Private Hire Vehicles	154	156
Dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers	403	432
Private Hire Operators	27	22

- 3.14 Licensing Officers keep in regular contact with the appointed taxi trade representatives – by phone and one to one meetings when necessary.
- 3.15 Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Team members regularly attend and represent Redditch Borough Council at a number of local and regional meetings, such as the Institute of Licensing meetings, the Regional Taxi Licensing Forums and other neighbouring authority groups, which continue to prove to be invaluable, on providing information on national and regional licensing matters inclusive of upcoming changes in any licensing legislation.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 None

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