

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

20th July 2015

LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Yvonne Smith
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Ivor Pumfrey – Acting 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 2014/2015 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. During 2014 the review of the Licensing Act 2003 policy was completed. The Gambling Act 2005 policy was reviewed during 2012 with minor amendments. Another review of the Gambling Act 2005 policy is due this year. 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 2014/15, together with the total number of licences issued, are:

Personal Licenses	New	47	Total	668
Premises Licenses	New	8	Total	209
Club Premises Certificates	New	0	Total	24
Temporary Event Notices			Total	76

- 3.7 The Licensing Sub Committee created by the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with applications, variations and reviews of licensed premises, met on two occasions during the year 2014/15 both within the statutory time limits. One of these hearings was in relation to a new application for a premises licence where objections could not be mediated, and the other hearing was to consider objections from the Police to five Temporary Event Notices.

Gambling Act 2005

- 3.8 Last year saw the Council continue its functions under the Gambling Act 2005. This legislation 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.

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

Betting Premises	New	0	Total	10
Bingo Premises	New	0	Total	2
Adult Gaming Centres	New	0	Total	2
Family Entertainment Centres	New	0	Total	0
Casinos	New	0	Total	0

- 3.10 All yearly maintenance fees as set out in the Gambling Act 2003, which have been set by the Local Authority for the year ending 2014/15, 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 The number of licensed vehicles and drivers has remained fairly consistent and at present the following number of licences are valid.

	13/14	14/15
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	201	205
Private Hire Vehicles	146	169
Dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers	415	408
Private Hire Operators	12	13

- 3.13 At the Licensing Committee meeting on 11th November 2013 the Council introduced a requirement that all new applicants for driver licences would have to undertake disability awareness training conducted by Worcestershire County Council or demonstrate to the Council's satisfaction that they have undertaken equivalent disability awareness training. The Committee also resolved that with effect from 1st July 2014, any driver renewing their licence must have undertaken similar training.

Scrap Metal Dealers

- 3.14 In October 2013 the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 came into force in the District. Under this new legislation the Council is responsible for issuing mobile scrap metal collector licences and scrap metal site licences. The Council has issued the following number of licences to date:

	<u>13/14</u>	<u>14/15</u>
Site Licences	6	6
Mobile Collector Licences	24	29

- 3.15 The Licensing Team has responsibility for enforcing the legislation in partnership with the Police and Environment Agency.
- 3.16 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 including upcoming changes in any licensing legislation.
- 3.17 Redditch Borough Council hosted the West Midlands Region of the Institute of Licensing's AGM and training day on 12th June 2015.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

5.1 None

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