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**LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Yvonne Smith
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – 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 2015/2016 be noted.**

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

3.1 None.

**Legal Implications**

3.2 None

**Service / Operational Implications**

3.3 Since 1<sup>st</sup> 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.

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- 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 periodically.
- 3.5 During 2015/16 the Council's Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 was reviewed and a revised Statement of Principles was published with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2016.
- 3.6 The Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 was published with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014. The Statement of Licensing Policy will therefore be due for revision prior to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019.
- 3.7 The Council also consulted upon and adopted its first comprehensive policy on the licensing of Sex Establishments during 2015/16.

**Licensing Act 2003**

- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 The number of new licenses issued and granted by Redditch Borough Council in the year 2015/16, together with the total number of licences issued, are:

Personal Licenses	New	59	Total	724
Premises Licenses	New	6	Total	203
Club Premises Certificates	New	0	Total	23
Temporary Event Notices			Total	101

- 3.10 The Licensing Sub Committee created by the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with applications, variations and reviews of licensed premises, met on three occasions during the year 2015/16. These meetings were to determine two applications for new premises licences and one application for variation of a premises licence, where representations were received and not able to be resolved.

**Gambling Act 2005**

3.11 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.

3.12 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

3.13 All yearly maintenance fees as set out in the Gambling Act 2003, which have been set by the Local Authority for the year ending 2015/16, have been received by the Authority.

**Taxi Licensing**

3.14 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.

3.15 There has been an increase of around 8% in the number of driver licences issued and whilst the number of licensed hackney carriages has fallen slightly, there has also been an increase of around 20% in the number of vehicles licensed to be used as private hire vehicles.

**REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LICENSING  
COMMITTEE**

**18<sup>th</sup> July 2016**

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3.16 At present the following number of licences are valid.

	<u>14/15</u>	<u>15/16</u>
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	205	201
Private Hire Vehicles	169	203
Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers	408	441
Private Hire Operators	13	14

3.17 The Council has carried out consultation on the introduction of a penalty points scheme to help achieve compliance from licence holders with licensing and other legal requirements .

3.18 The Council also hosted two forums for hackney carriage and private hire licence holders in January 2016, which were a useful opportunity to discuss issues with the trade. Further Forums are planned to take place in the future.

**Scrap Metal Dealers**

3.19 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>14/15</u>	<u>15/16</u>
Site Licences	6	6
Mobile Collector Licences	29	29

3.20 The Licensing Team is responsible for enforcing the legislation in partnership with the Police and Environment Agency and have taken part in two multi-agency operations in the North Worcestershire area during 2015/16, which included trying to identify any unlicensed scrap metal dealers operating in the area.

- 3.21 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.
- 3.22 Redditch Borough Council hosted the West Midlands Region of the Institute of Licensing's AGM and training day on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2015.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None

**5. APPENDICES**

- 5.1 None

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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