
LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Grubb
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 2018/2019 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 periodically.
- 3.5 During the past twelve months, the Council's Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005 has been reviewed and a revised Statement of Principles was approved by Council to take effect on 31st January 2019. The next scheduled review will need to be completed by 31st January 2022.
- 3.6 During the past twelve months, the Council's current Statement of Licensing Policy under the Licensing Act 2003 was also reviewed and a revised Statement of Licensing Policy was approved by council to take effect on 1st June 2019. The next scheduled review of the Statement of Licensing Policy will need to be completed no later than 1st June 2024.

Licensing Act 2003

- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 The number of new licenses issued and granted by Redditch Borough Council in the year 2018/19, together with the total number of licences issued, are:

Personal Licenses	New	41	Total	863
Premises Licenses	New	8	Total	203
Club Premises Certificates	New	0	Total	18
Temporary Event Notices			Total	77

- 3.9 The Licensing Sub-Committee created by the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with applications, variations and reviews of licensed premises, held three hearings during the year 2018/19. Two of these hearings were held to consider applications for the grant of new premises licences and one hearing was to determine an application for review of an existing premises licence.

Gambling Act 2005

3.10 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.

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

Betting Premises	New	0	Total	8
Bingo Premises	New	0	Total	2
Adult Gaming Centres	New	1	Total	3
Family Entertainment Centres	New	0	Total	0
Casinos	New	0	Total	0

3.12 The new Adult Gaming Centre premises licence was granted by a hearing of the Licensing Sub-Committee following receipt of relevant representations from an interested party.

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 2018/2019, 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. The number of licensed hackney carriages has increased by five but the number of vehicles licensed to be used as private hire vehicles has remained the same. The increase in the number of driver licences is broadly similar to the increases seen in the previous three years.

3.16 At present the following number of licences are valid.

	<u>17/18</u>	<u>18/19</u>
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	203	208
Private Hire Vehicles	274	274
Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Drivers	500	539
Private Hire Operators	20	20

3.17 On 5th November 2018 a revised table of fares for Hackney Carriages was approved by the Licensing Committee. The revised table of fares took effect on 16th November 2018. This was the first revision of the table of fares since 2011.

3.18 The Licensing Committee also approved consultation on potential amendments to the Council's driver and vehicle licensing policies in November 2018. The potential amendments related to the training and assessment requirements for drivers and the vehicle age limits for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

3.19 The results of this consultation were considered in March 2019 but the Licensing Committee ultimately resolved not to make and amendments to the policies concerned.

Animal Activity Licensing Implementation

3.20 Over the past twelve months, an enormous amount of work has gone into implementing the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 which came into force on 1 October 2018.

3.21 These regulations were made under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and replaced the licensing regimes and legislation in place for dealing with the following activities when conducted on a commercial basis:

- Selling animals as pets
- Providing boarding in kennels for dogs
- Providing home boarding for dogs
- Providing day-care for dogs
- Providing boarding for cats
- Hiring out horses

- Breeding dogs
- Keeping or training animals for exhibition

Street Trading Policy

- 3.22 On 16th July 2018, the Licensing Committee approved a new Street Trading Policy, which took effect on 1st September 2018. This decision followed a period of consultation undertaken between January 2018 and March 2018.

Scrap Metal Dealers

- 3.23 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 number of licences currently in force is:

	<u>18/19</u>
Site Licences	4
Mobile Collector Licences	13

- 3.24 The Licensing Team is responsible for enforcing the legislation in partnership with the Police and Environment Agency.
- 3.25 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.
- 3.26 One of the Senior Licensing Practitioners is also a Member of the Local Government Association's Licensing Policy Forum.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

- 5.1 None

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

8th July 2019

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