



Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item No.
Chairman of the Licensing Committee	Council	26 July 2012	11
LICENSING COMMITTEE PERIODIC REPORT			

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1** To inform the Council of the current position on issues dealt with by the Licensing team and Licensing Committee during the period November 2011 to June 2012 (inclusive).

The Licensing Committee have met three times during this reporting period, in January, February and March.

2. Licensing Act 2003

2.1 Premises Licence Reviews

One review has been brought before this committee, in January 2012 for The Winery in Cleveleys.

The review of a premises licence granted under the Licensing Act 2003 was requested by the Police for "persistently" selling alcohol to underage persons ie on two occasions. The premises is an off licence situated in Cleveleys and had sold alcohol illegally as part of a test purchase operation on two occasions.

Licensing Committee heard the case and made the decision to suspend the licence for 1 week. Conditions were also added to the licence, relating to training, till prompts and documentation.

2.2 Appeals under Licensing Act 2003

An appeal was scheduled following the revocation of a premises licence (off licence and convenience store called The Wine Cellar in Cleveleys) by the Licensing Committee in September 2011. However the appeal was withdrawn in February and the premises has continue to trade WITHOUT the sale of alcohol, following the revocation of the licence.

3. Taxi Licensing

- 3.1** Two Taxi drivers who had submitted applications for NEW driver's licences were brought before Licensing Committee to have their applications dealt with by the Committee.

The first applicant was granted his Hackney carriage Drivers licence. The second was refused a licence on the grounds that he could not be considered fit and proper. This was due to his overall attitude and failure to ensure he had the correct documentation and insurance for his vehicle. The Committee felt that this posed a risk to members of the public who may travel in his vehicle.

3.2 Appeals by hackney or private hire drivers

An Appeal against the decision of the Committee taken at the meeting held in April 2011 was heard at Blackpool Magistrates Court on 21 December 2011. The appeal was made by the driver whose driver's licence was revoked by the Licensing Committee in April 2011. At the Appeal hearing the Committee's decision was upheld and we were awarded costs of £400.

4. General Licensing

- 4.1** In March the Committee considered a report with regard to the setting of Licensing fees and charges for 2012/2013. Many of the fees set for licences/permits/registrations are fixed by central Government. However some changes were agreed and the new fee structure came into effect in April 2012.

The taxi trade had not requested an increase to the tariff this year as they felt that in the current financial climate although costs have risen, it wouldn't be economic to increase fares to their customers, as this could result in a reluctance from passengers to use taxis. In the past 3 years there has been a downturn in the number of taxi licences and it is hoped that the freezing of charges may have a positive effect to help maintain a buoyant fleet, which serves the public of Wyre.

For similar reasons, it was agreed that Taxi fees charged by this Council remain static for 2012/2013.

5. Licences/permits/registrations issued by the Licensing team in the period covered by this report November 2011 to June 2012 (inclusive).

5.1 Licensing Act 2003 applications

- 11 new premises licences
- 3 variations to premises licences
- 7 minor variations to premises licences
- 114 personal licences (new and change of address notifications)

- 163 Temporary event notices
- 82 Changes to Licences

There have also been 5 Premises Licences surrendered due to closure and 1 revoked by the Licensing Committee.

5.2 General Licensing-Issued during the period covered by this report

- 18 Boarding establishments
- 5 Home Boarding establishments
- 8 Pet shops
- 7 Riding establishments
- 2 Breeding establishments
- 10 house to house collection permits
- 47 street collection permits
- 1 motor salvage operator
- 9 Street traders
- 9 scrap metal dealers (following continuing Multi Agency enforcement Operations)

2 second hand dealers

5.3 Taxi Licensing- Issued during the period covered by this report

- 215 vehicle licences (private hire and hackney carriage)
- 323 driver licences issued (private hire and hackney carriage drivers licences)

19 Operator licences have been issued/renewed.

5.4 Gambling Act 2005

Although no new Premises licences were issued under the Gambling Act 2005, notifications, permits and club machine permits continue to be issued for Licensed premises. There have been 6 new Small Society Lottery Permits issued. One betting shop in the area has ceased trading.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	All matters raised in this report are funded from existing budgets
Legal	All actions referred to in this report are carried out under existing legislation.
Community Safety	No direct implications
Equality and Diversity	No direct implications
Sustainability	No direct implications

Health and Safety	No direct implications
Risk Management	No direct implications
Asset Management	No direct implications
Climate Change	No direct implications

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