**Report of Licensing Team Leader**

**to**

**Licensing Committee**

**on**

**14th January 2021**

**LICENSING ACTIVITY UPDATE**

1. **SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides members of the Licensing Committee with an update on key areas of work within the Licensing Team. An update report will be submitted to every Licensing Committee meeting.

1. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

(i) That the content of the report be noted.

(ii) That Members inform the Licensing Team Leader of any additional licensing

issues that they would like to have included in future update reports.

1. **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 The Licensing Team has responsibility for the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles, Scrap Metal, Massage and Special Treatment, Tattooing, Street Collections and House to House and Animal Welfare Act 2018.

3.2 At each Licensing Committee, a report is written to provide an overview of activity and any significant changes in legislation, consultations and fees. Local issues such as feedback from the Taxi Forum will also be reported to the Licensing Committee.

**Licensing Act 2003**

3.4 Since the last Licensing Committee report there have been a number of factors that have affected the licensed trade. All premises were able to reopen from the 4th July 2020 until late October when Nottinghamshire was placed in tier 2 then shortly followed by tier 3. On the 3rd November 2020 the second lock down came in. On the 2nd Dec 2020 Nottinghamshire entered tier 3 and have remained in that tier.

3.5 The Team have been working with the trade as the various changes have taken place to ensure that they have a good understanding of the changes and that the businesses are compliant.

3.6 There has been an increase in the number of complaints received that premises are opening. All complaints have been investigated and none of the premises were found to be open when they should not be.

3.7 The Team have conducted regular night-time and daytime visits throughout the district to ensure that venues are compliant, Advice was given to a number of venues throughout this period who were acting contrary to the guidance.

**Taxi and Private Hire**

3.8 The Taxi and Private Hire trade are reporting that Covid has had a significant impact on their trade. Closure of the Night Time Economy has particularly affected the trade. A number of drivers have taken alternative employment.

3.9 The Licensing Team are offering a full service and knowledge tests resumed in November. The tests are now taking place in the Theatre and Museum a covid risk assessment has been conducted to ensure that they are conducted in a covid secure manner.

3.10 On the 16th December 2020 the DfT published the statistics for 2020.

The stats can be viewed by clicking the link.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/944680/taxi-and-private-hire-vehicle-statistics-2020.pdf>

**Gambling Act 2005**

3.11 All sites reopened and were inspected. Bingo operators have shut again under the latest restrictions but betting shops continue to operate.

3.12 The Gambling Commission in currently undertaking a review of the Gambling Act 2005 in order to ensure it is fit for the digital age. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-the-gambling-act-2005-terms-of-reference-and-call-for-evidence/review-of-the-gambling-act-2005-terms-of-reference-and-call-for-evidence>

**Massage and Special Treatment and Tattoo**

3.13 All premises offering beauty treatments were closed in late October. They were able to open again on the 2nd December 2020.

3.14 The Licensing Team and Environmental Health Team have offered help and advice throughout the pandemic and have ensured sites are operated in a Covid secure way.

**Animal Welfare Activities Regulations 2018**

3.15 The Team has continued to process licences for animal welfare. During the initial lockdown many businesses were unable to trade. Assistance and advice has been provided to many businesses to ensure that they are able to operate in a Covid secure way.

3.16 There has been an increase in the number of complaints regarding unlicensed dog breeders. The Licensing Team have contacted all the businesses and offered advice and guidance on whether they need to be licensed.

**Scrap Metal act**

3.17 The trade have continued to operate throughout lockdown. The Team have seen an increase in the report of unlicensed scrap metal collectors. All businesses have been contacted and been given advice on how to get licensed and what is a licensable activity.

**House to House and Street Collections**

3.18House to House collections have now restarted and the Team are working with the operators to ensure that the collections are conducted lawfully and in a Covid secure way.

**4. OPTIONS AVAILABLE**

This report is for noting only with Members having the option of informing the Licensing Team Leader of any additional licensing issues that they would like to have included in future update reports.

**5. RISK ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS**

There are no specific risks associated with noting the report, however by keeping Members and the public informed of licensing activity this reduces any potential negative reputational risks.

The presentation of this report fulfils the Committee Policy Objective relative to the enforcement of licensing activities, premises and persons in the District in accordance with current legislative controls and demonstrates that conditions and restrictions are attached to Licences to meet the intentions of the legislation.

**6. ALIGNMENT TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

This reports supports the council achieving the following priorities:

• Improve the town centre experience for residents, visitors and businesses

• Create an infrastructure that supports and enhances the quality of life for residents.

• Develop and sustain local businesses and encourage national and regional businesses to invest in the area.

• Support a good quality of life for those who live and work here

**7. IMPLICATIONS RELATING TO RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

(A) Relevant legislation – None

(B) Human Rights – No implications.

(C) Equality and Diversity – No implications

(D) Climate Change and Environmental sustainability – No implications.

(E) Crime and Disorder – No implications.

(F) Budget/Resource- No Implications.

**8. COMMENTS OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

Head of Paid Services – N/A

Monitoring Officer – No specific comments.

Section 151 Officer – No specific comments

**9. CONSULTATION**

Shared Legal Services –

Finance Officer –

Head of Health and Communities -

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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