

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

24th June 2013

LICENSING ANNUAL REPORT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Steve Jordan – 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 2012/1013 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 Bromsgrove District 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

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

24th June 2013

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. At the end of 2010 the review of the Licensing Act 2003 policy was completed with only minor changes having been made. The Gambling Act 2005 policy was reviewed during 2012 again with only minor amendments. 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 Bromsgrove District Council in the year 2012/2013 are:

Personal Licenses	New	75	Total	792
Premises Licenses	New	14	Total	326
Club Premises Certificates	New	0	Total	41
Temporary Event Notices			Total	240

(NB: Premises licenses were surrendered by licence holders and subsequently cancelled)

- 3.7 The Licensing Sub Committee created by the Licensing Act 2003 to deal with applications, variations and reviews of licensed premises, met on four occasions during the year 2012/13 all within the statutory time limits – these were all new applications or variation applications where objections could not be mediated out.

Gambling Act 2005

- 3.8 Last year saw the continued implementation of the Gambling Act 2005. It 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

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

24th June 2013

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	7
Bingo Premises	0
Adult Gaming Centres	9
Family Entertainment Centres	2
Casinos	0

- 3.10 Again all yearly maintenance fees as set out in the Gambling Act 2003 which have been set by the Local Authority for the year ending 2012/13 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 An Enforcement exercise in conjunction with VOSA, West Mercia Police and the Licensing Team showed that out of the vehicles stopped and examined at the Depot, no vehicles were found with serious faults, the minor issues of no tariff card and unlit top boxes were dealt with by way of verbal warnings at the road side.
- 3.13 The number of licensed vehicles and drivers has remained fairly consistent and at present the following number of licenses are valid.

	11/12	12/13
Hackney Carriage Vehicles	103	137
Private Hire Vehicles	67	51
Dual Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers	180	165
Private Hire Operators	17	17

- 3.14 Licensing Officers attend the Taxi Forum which the licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade hold roughly 4 times a year; this forum continues to be a useful opportunity for members of the trade to raise

LICENSING COMMITTEE

24th June 2013

and discuss any issues which they feel are current and relevant with the Council.

- 3.15 Licensing Officers keep in regular contact with the appointed taxi trade representatives – by phone and one to one meetings when necessary.
- 3.16 Worcestershire Regulatory Services Licensing Team members regularly attend and represent Bromsgrove District 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 inclusive of upcoming changes in any licensing legislation.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Sue Garratt - Licensing Manager.
Worcestershire Regulatory Services
E Mail: sue.garratt@worcsregservices.gov.uk
Tel: (01527) 534196