

**Committee: Statutory Licensing Committee**

Date of meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Report Subject: Activities Report for Quarter 1 of 2019/20

Portfolio Holder: Statutory Licensing Committee

Report Submitted by: Lisa Griffin, Team Manager Licensing & Commercial

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Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Statutory Licensing Committee
By 06/08/19								17/09/2019

**1. Purpose of the Report**

To update the Licensing Committee on the work of the Licensing Team for the first quarter of 2019/20, i.e. 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 in respect of statutory licensing matters.

**2. Scope and Background**

2.1 This report outlines the work of the Licensing team from 1<sup>st</sup> April – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019, including work such as applications, inspections and reactive complaints in respect of statutory licensing matters, so that Members are aware of what licensing activities are taking place and why.

**Operational Report**

**2.2 Alcohol and Entertainment**

2.2.1 41 applications were received this quarter in accordance with the Licensing Act 2003. Applications included three new premises licence applications, one new club premises certificate and 13 temporary event notices (TENs). The remainder of the applications were to transfer licences and vary the designated premises supervisor (DPS).

2.2.2 There were six complaints received in respect of licensed premises relating to matters such as anti-social behaviour, underage drinking, serving after hours and noise from premises. All complaints have been investigated and advice has been given as needed to ensure compliance at these premises.

2.2.3 The implementation and enforcement of the Public Health (Minimum Price for Alcohol) (Wales) Act continues to be planned by the Welsh Heads of Trading standards in conjunction with the Welsh Assembly. However, implementation has been delayed until Spring 2020 due to queries raised by another EU country.

### 2.3 **Gambling, Gaming and Lotteries**

2.3.1 No applications were received in respect of gambling premises licences this quarter. Two applications were received for new small society lottery registrations and one gambling machine application was received. There were no gambling related complaints.

### 2.4 **Inspection and Enforcement Activities**

2.4.1 During this first quarter, 28 premises licensed in accordance with the Licensing act 2003 were inspected to ensure that licence holders are complying with the conditions of their licence. Action was taken to address any areas for concern that were identified as a result of the inspection. Three multi-agency operations in conjunction with Gwent Police were also carried out.

2.4.2 One Licensing Act 2003 premises licence was suspended due to non-payment of the annual fee. The licence currently remains suspended. Action was taken in respect of six other premises to successfully recover annual fees.

## **Management Report**

### 2.5 **Policies**

2.5.1 The Policy in respect of the Licensing Act 2003 is due to be reviewed shortly, and Members will be advised of the timetable for this review in the Autumn. A meeting of the Gwent Licensing Forum is scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> August 2019 where this matter will be considered.

### 2.6 **Fees**

2.6.1 All gambling licence fees will be reviewed during quarter 3 and 4 19/20

with a view to any proposed changes being implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Licensing Act 2003 related licence fees are reviewed nationally by the UK government, no known amendment to these fees are planned at present.

## **2.7 Collaboration with Torfaen County Borough Council**

2.7.1 The shared management arrangement for the Licensing Teams in both Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council and Torfaen County Borough Council has now been removed. This is part of the ongoing work to terminate the current collaborative working arrangement for the Public Protection Service as a whole. As a result an existing Team Manager from Blaenau Gwent has been given temporary duties to manage the Licensing Team in-house until the final working arrangements are agreed.

## **2.8 Complaints**

2.8.1 There have been no formal complaints about the work of the team in this quarter.

## **2.9 Freedom of Information Requests (FOI)**

2.9.1 Two FOI were received in relation to Licensing Act 2003 matters and no FOI's were received in relation to Gambling Act 2005 matters.

## **3. Options for Recommendation**

- 3.1 1. That the committee note and comment on the contents of this report, and
2. That the committee note the activity report for this quarter.

## **4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan/Statutory Responsibilities/Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan**

4.1 This report relates to the statutory duties and responsibilities of the Authority.

Links to the Corporate Plan and the Well-being plan are covered in any reports implementing or varying any area of work delivered by the Licensing Team. There are therefore no direct links to this report which provides a quarterly performance update.

## 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

- 5.1 This report reflects work carried out by the Licensing team within existing resources, and there are therefore no financial implications.
- 5.2 The main risk to the Authority is reputational should efficient and effective licensing enforcement not be delivered.
- 5.3 This report relates to the statutory powers and responsibilities of the authority, and there are therefore no significant legal impact is identified.
- 5.4 This report reflects work carried out by the Licensing team within existing resources, and there are therefore no staffing/workforce implications

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

- 6.1 Details of activities completed in this quarter are attached as Appendix 1.

## 7. **Monitoring Arrangements**

- 7.1 The Licensing team will continue to monitor workloads and report to future committees.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

None