
TITLE: LICENSING OFFICERS UPDATE

COMMITTEE: Licensing Committee

DATE: 11th May 2016

AUTHOR: Stewart Broome, Senior Licensing Officer

[Q262]

1.0 ISSUE

1.1 To update Members of the Licensing Committee on the work of Officers.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 For information purposes only.

3.0 SUMMARY

Taxi Meeting

3.1 A taxi trade meeting was held on 11 March 2016. Eight members of the trade attended, but representatives of Fencabs, A10 were present so a larger number of licence holders were represented compared to the number present.

3.2 A number of issues were discussed. The only issues raised as being a problem were Friday and Saturday evening trade, and rank space. The persons present were concerned that there may be some unlawful trading occurring, and would like to see some enforcement, and there was concern that rank provision was not sufficient, and almost non-existent in the rural areas away from Ely. The main feedback regarding all of the changes implemented during 2015 was very positive.

Lotteries

3.3 Information on the various lotteries permitted by the Gambling Act 2005 have been updated on our website following the new rule changes which came into effect on 1 April 2016. We have seen any impact so far from these changes.

Street Trading

3.4 The newly overhauled street trading policy has now been up and running for almost a month. We have received three new applications, and two renewal applications for annual street traders, and two applications for street trading events. We have had enquiries from a number of other event organisers, and individuals wishing to obtain annual consents, and expect to receive further applications over the coming weeks and months. No problems have been identified at this early stage.

General

- 3.5 The following tables illustrate the applications dealt with, the number of inspections conducted, and the number of suspension notices issued by the licensing section between 23 February 2016 and 26 April 2016. The inspection figures are lower than expected due in part to Officer leave, and sickness during this period:

Applications

Licence type	Number
Taxi driver	22
Taxi vehicle	56
Taxi operator	0
TEN's	54
New and varied premise licences	6
Animal welfare licences	2
Personal licences	10
Small lottery licences	2
DPS and transfers of premise licences	8
DBS criminal record applications	11
TOTAL	165

Inspections

Inspection type	Number
Complaint	2
Enforcement	11
Routine	4
Re-visit	11
Pre-application	4
TOTAL	32

Suspensions

Suspension notice type	Number
DBS	1
Annual fee	5
Suspension notice becoming active	2 (1 taxi driver, and 1 LA03 premises licence)

- 3.6 Issuing the above suspension notices gives the licence holder 21 days to resolve the issue before the suspension becomes active. The above shows that 4 of the 6 licence holders resolved the outstanding issue, and were not actually officially suspended. The figure of notices issued is down on the last period, but the active figure is 1 up on the figure quoted on the previous report. Given the longer reporting period, the figures are very positive.
- 3.7 In addition to the suspension notices issued above Officers the following immediate suspension notices for vehicle MOT failures.

Taxi driver – enforcement action	0
Taxi vehicle – MOT failures	4

4.0 WORK IN PROGRESS

- 4.1 Officers have commenced work on a new combined animal licensing policy. The draft document will be brought before Members at the July committee meeting. It is anticipated that the new policy and conditions could be in place by 1 January 2017, so as to run in line with the vast majority of animal licences issued by the Licensing department.
- 4.2 Data for the annual fees review is continuing to be collected on a fortnightly basis, and will be reported to Members in due course.
- 4.3 Scrap metal licensing which has historically been handled by Environmental Health is being migrated to the licensing section over the coming weeks. The licences issued in 2013 expire this year, and will now need to be reviewed and renewed by the licensing team. This move has been made possible by the reduction in administrative burden across the licensing department that has arisen as a result of the suggestions made by Officers, and agreed by Members since July 2015.