

Subject:	Licensing Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Licensing Committee	Date:	5 th March 2024
Report of:	Public Protection Manager	Lead Member:	Planning, Licensing and Enforcement
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached: No	No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required: No	Attached: No	No
Contact Officer:	Susan Chadwick	Telephone:	01706 238 648
Email:	susanchadwick@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1. RECOMMENDATION

1.1 That members note the contents of this update report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Rossendale continues to operate a hackney fleet proportionate to the population of the Borough.
- Monitoring of licensed premises under the Licensing Act 2003 continues.
- Regard to the Gambling Act objectives remains to be considered.
- Animal Licensing unified various pieces of legislation and received no additional funding from central government.

3. DETAILS

Taxi's and Private Hire

Rosendale continues to operate a hackney fleet which is proportionate to the population of the Borough. There are 177 licensed vehicles and 240 licensed drivers.

Vehicles are inspected regularly both during their formal tests every 6 months and on an ad hoc basis by licensing officers on the streets. As a result of the proportionate fleet size, officers can ensure that vehicles and drivers who work locally are subject to regular compliance inspections.

Drivers and vehicles are regularly referred to the sub-committee for application decisions and reviews of licences where appropriate.

Members of the trade have requested that vehicle age limits be reviewed along with the exceptional vehicle policy and driver medicals. These are matters that will be investigated and a report brought back to the committee for consideration by members once the preparatory work has been completed.

Premises Licensing

There are around 274 licensed establishments in the Borough which includes those operating under Club Premises Certificates.

Work continues to ensure that all licensed premises are operating within the terms of their licences.

Over the last 12 months, there have been 4 licensing hearings. These amounted to 1 revocation, 1 grant, 1 refusal of a transfer and 1 suspension of licence.

Licensing officers will continue to act without favour or prejudice in considering such applications, but must remain within the framework of the law when dealing with potentially contentious issues.

Gambling

The Gambling Act 2005 states that Licensing Authorities must have regard to the licensing objectives as set out in the Act.

The Licensing Objectives are:

- ✓ preventing gambling being a source of crime or disorder;
- ✓ being associated with crime and disorder or being used to support crime;
- ✓ ensuring gambling is carried out in a fair and open way; and
- ✓ protecting children and other vulnerable persons from being harmed or exploited by gambling.

There are 4 betting shops in the Borough. The largest part of Gambling for this Authority remains small society lottery registrations which amount to 58.

Animal Licensing

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 came into effect on 1st October 2018. The regulations unified and updated a number of current licensing acts. Unfortunately, extra funding was not provided to local council's to deal with the increase in work required to administer the new regime and this remains a challenge to deal with.

Inspectors must be qualified to Level 3 certificate in Inspecting licensable activities involving animals in order to conduct inspections at such premises. There is a shortage of qualified people and inspections for the simplest of activities can take 1.5 hours excluding a review of all necessary paperwork, policies and procedures. This course involves a mandatory practical session which is typically held at Heathrow Airport.

There are currently around 35 licensed premises including those due to be inspected as part of the new application process.

4. RISK

There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. FINANCE

All financial implications are noted in the report.

6. LEGAL

All legal matters are covered within the body of the report.

7. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

All policy or equality implications are noted in the report.

8. REASON FOR DECISION

Members should note the contents of the report.

No background papers