



Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Thursday, 11 October 2018	Matter for Information
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Report Title: **Licensing Update (Q2 2018/19)**

Report Author(s): **Stephen Eyre (Interim Licensing Officer)**

Purpose of Report:	This information report provides an overview of the work undertaken by the Licensing Section for the second quarter of 2018/19.
Report Summary:	This report covers the standard quarterly reporting items in relation to taxi and private hire licensing, applications under the Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 and notable enforcement activity. An update is also provided in respect other concurrent matters.
Recommendation(s):	That the contents of the report and appendix be noted.
Responsible Strategic Director, Head of Service and Officer Contact(s):	<p>David Gill (Head of Law & Governance / Monitoring Officer) (0116) 257 2626 david.gill@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Paulette Samuels (Environmental Health & Licensing Team Leader) (0116) 257 2692 paulette.samuels@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p> <p>Stephen Eyre (Interim Licensing Officer) (0116) 257 2637 stephen.eyre@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</p>
Corporate Priorities:	Effective Service Provision (CP2)
Vision and Values:	Accountability (V1) Customer Focus (V5)
Report Implications:-	
Legal:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Financial:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Corporate Risk Management:	No corporate risk(s) identified.
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications arising from this report. EA not applicable.
Human Rights:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications arising from this report.
Statutory Officers' Comments:-	
Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.

Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Consultees:	None.
Background Papers:	None.
Appendices:	1. Licensing Application Statistics (Q2 2018/19)

1. Taxi and Private Hire Licensing

1.1 Vehicles

From 3 July to 17 September, the Licensing Section has processed 136 hackney carriage/private hire applications. The vehicle fleet remains of high quality and this in part is due to the visual checks made by officers on all prospective licensed vehicles.

1.2 Drivers

On 4 July and 1 August, around 40 applicants sat the Council competency test as part of the driver's licence application process. On 5 September, 16 applicants were booked to take the test, 4 actually attended and of those 14 the pass rate was 50%. Similar numbers attended the Child Sexual Exploitation Course on 4 July. The August 2018 course was not held. Future courses have been booked for October and November.

1.3 Driver Applications Presently Being Processed

Around 40 applicants are waiting to pass the competency test after previous failures. This reduced figure is due to the fact that applications received during 2017 and where the applicant hasn't been in touch for some while have been filed no further action. They can be activated should the applicant contact the council.

1.4 Refusal of Driver's Licences

One driver's licence application has been refused as the applicant had taken four Blue Lamp Trust driving assessments and failed all four.

2. Licensing Act 2003

- 2.1 Since 2 July, there have been 38 applications relating to the Licensing Act. During the period there have only been 2 premises licence applications neither of which have attracted any representations. The Borough's newest premises licence at the Lidl Store on Blaby Road, South Wigston received its first customers on 27 September.

3. Gambling Act 2005

- 3.1 No Gambling Act premises licence applications have been received recently. The Council's requirement to publish a new Statement of Licensing Principles under the Gambling Act has to be concluded by 31 January 2019. Most licensing authorities seem to be taking the view that due to the minor changes to the legislation since the last review date they will not be undertaking a major consultation process. Preparatory work is ongoing with Oadby and Wigston's Statement and a separate report is featured on the agenda for consideration.

4. Licensing Enforcement

- 4.1 Whilst the team have continued to respond to complaints received from members of the

public, there has not been any proactive enforcement activity undertaken.

5. Review of the Licensing Service

- 5.1 Recent staffing shortages in the Licensing Service have identified a need to review processes and procedures within the service which are no longer fit for purpose. A full review commenced in August 2018 which included an assessment of the current IT system (LALPAC) and how this can be better utilised to facilitate more online customer interaction and remove the need for outdated and time consuming paper processes.
- 5.2 The Project Board are monitoring the progress and delivery of this initiative under close scrutiny of the SMT. An initial scoping exercise is currently underway.

6. Implementation of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018

- 6.1 On the 1 October, the requirements of these regulations will focus on consolidating previous disparate animal welfare regulations into one that simplifies the administration of new licences. The introduction of a 'rating' scheme approach to reflect good levels of compliance is expected to motivate such license-holders to aspire to and maintain good standards within their facilities.
- 6.2 Officers are working together across the County to ensure a consistency in interpretation and implementation of these new requirements, at least on the subject of setting appropriate licence fees. An update is featured elsewhere on the agenda in relation to the agreed 2018/19 fees from 1 October. A further verbal update will be given at the meeting.

7. 'Sam Says Stop' Campaign Update

- 7.1 Officers have met with members of the Boulton Family and are actively seeking the best options for providing financial support in the delivery and promotion of the 'Sam Says Stop' Campaign. The primary idea is to distribute stickers to taxi drivers and operators, as well as ensuring they are displayed in Council owned vehicles. A marketing strategy is also being designed to ensure the message is advertised via the Council's website, social media and the Borough-wide distribution of Letterbox. A re-considered approach is also being taken to identify an appropriate funding allocation towards the production costs of the stickers.

8. Feedback from East Midlands Joint-Enforcement Activity

- 8.1 The enforcement initiative went ahead at East Midlands Airport on 6 September. No Oadby & Wigston BC officers were present. None of the Borough's licensed vehicles were stopped or checked.

9. Other Regulatory Updates / Miscellaneous

- 9.1 The Leicestershire & Rutland Licensing Forum went ahead on 27 July but no licensing officer was able to attend. The minutes have been received and nothing of immediate note was discussed.
- 9.2 A breakdown of licensing application statistics for quarter 2 is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report for Members' perusal.