

## **Licensing Activity report: 1st October 2017 to 31st December 2017**

### **1. Context**

The council's Licensing and Enforcement Team covers the licensing of taxi drivers and operators, licensed premises and temporary events notices, along with more infrequent applications relating to, among other things, scrap metal handling and gambling. This report summarises activity in this area for quarter 3 of 2017/18.

Licensing of food premises and other commercial businesses subject to regulatory activity is carried out by the Environmental Health team. Detailed quarterly statistics will not be available on this activity until after the end of December

### ***Licensing matters managed by the Licensing & Enforcement Team***

### **2. Taxis**

The activity over the period in question has been as follows:

New applications	8
New applicants who have attended training	8
Resits of knowledge test	10
Existing drivers who have attended update training	14
Decisions taken by Head of Housing and Health under delegation in consultation with the Chairman on the Licensing Committee	0
Decisions taken by Licensing Committee	0
Appeals against licensing points – decision by Head of Housing and Health	0
Upheld	n/a
Dismissed	n/a
Appeals of decision – decision by court	1 (plus 1 adjourned to January)
Upheld <i>council not successful in defending its decision</i>	1 (parking matter)

Dismissed <i>council successful in defending its decision</i>	1 – by the Crown Court <i>Revocation due to alleged sexual misconduct</i>
Prosecution sought	1
Successful	0 (refusal of assistance dog)
Unsuccessful	n/a
Judicial reviews	0

There is a strong desire among both members and officers to build on the council’s work to promote high quality taxi licensing. To this end:

- the Service Manager – Licensing and Enforcement is continuing his peer review of Uttlesford DC’s taxi licensing policies and procedures. The draft final report has been given to the authority and they are now considering their priorities and resources. Once a decision is made it will be going to an extraordinary meeting of Uttlesford’s Environmental Health & Licensing Committee.

### **3. Premises**

There have been 34 applications made during this quarter; including 23 variations of DPS, 5 transfers and 1 new application.

### **4. Temporary Event Notices**

In this quarter, the team processed 195 temporary event notices.

### **5. Policy development**

The interplay between public health outcomes and licensing decisions, particularly in regard to alcohol sales, is an interesting area that the licensing profession has grappled with for some time on a national basis.

The Licensing Act 2003 does not include public health outcomes as a material consideration when deciding on an application, apart from in instances where an evidence-based case can be made to pin a

detrimental public health outcome very specifically to the premises in question and/or that premise's application.

Members remain keen to see the council's licensing decisions are made within the context of minimising crime and disorder and negative health impacts wherever possible. To this end, in December:

- three bids were made to the Police and Crime Commissioner's competitive community safety funding round. These covered Scannet Live ID, neighbourhood resolution (a form of mediation currently used in Cambridge as a means of tackling low level but potentially intractable neighbour disputes and the like) and a police-led drone project
- a report on the night time economy and emergency services, notably the impact of alcohol use on policing in the district, was considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 12 December
- a first draft was produced of the addition to the Licensing Policy aimed at making it far clearer with regard to licensed premises applications. The addition to the Licensing Policy covers:
  - who the relevant 'stakeholders' are, going beyond responsible authorities alone, and what should their reasonable expectations be of the licensing process
  - the Licensing Team's expectations of how the responsible authorities could make their representations so as to make decision-making as transparent and robust as possible
  - triggers for enforcement action
  - an articulation of the benefits of well-run licensed premises to the district – economic and cultural/entertainment

- how the council will proactively support best practice in the night time economy, for example, by promoting the use of Live ID and making best use of CCTV.

### ***Licensing matters managed by the Environmental Health Team***

#### **7. Overview of licences**

This section provides an overview of the number of active licences and those in the process of being reviewed/considered as at 22 February 2018.

<b>Licensable activity</b>	<b>Active licences</b>	<b>Applications being considered / licences being reviewed</b>
Animal boarding	14	0
Animal boarding (at home)	8	1
Animal boarding (day care)	2	0
Camping	1	0
Caravan sites	9	0
Dangerous wild animals	1	0
Houses in multiple occupation (HMOs)	45	4
Pet shops	5	1
Riding establishments	6	0
Skin piercing (personal)	196	6
Skin piercing (premises)	101	0
Street trading consent (mobile)	6	0
Street trading consent (occasional)	0	0
Street trading consent (static)	7	3
Zoos	2	0