

Licensing Activity report: 1st April 2021 to 30th June 2021

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.

Licensing of food premises and other commercial businesses subject to regulatory activity is carried out by the Environmental Health team and are included at point 7.

Licensing matters managed by the Licensing & Enforcement Team

2. Taxis

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

New driver applications	5 (3 dual drivers & 2 private hire drivers)
New applicants who have attended training	5
Resits of knowledge test	0
Existing drivers who have attended update training	0 (recommencing with E-Learning in Q2/Q3)
Decisions taken by Service Manager – Licensing & Enforcement under delegated powers	3 (non-production of valid documents)
Decisions taken by Head of Housing and Health under delegation in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee	1 (Revocation of Dual Driver Licence following a conviction)
Appeals against licensing points – decision by Head of Housing and Health	0
Upheld	n/a
Dismissed	n/a
Appeals of decision – decision by court	0
Upheld <i>council not successful in defending its decision</i>	0
Dismissed <i>council successful in defending its decision</i>	0

Prosecution sought	0
Successful	0
Unsuccessful	0
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. Through the Herts and Beds Licensing Group work continues on joint authorisation of officers. A draft agreement has been circulated and initially it is proposed that East Herts, Watford and St Albans will authorise each other's officers.

3. Premises

During Q1 of this financial year 3 applications were decided by Licensing Sub-Committees. There is a significant amount of work for officers whenever there is a contested application and the costs of a Licensing Sub-Committee are not covered by the fees set by Central Government. The details of the matters brought before Licensing Sub-Committees are shown below.

Premises/Person	Location	Type of application	Resolved
Tesco – Bishops Park Centre	Bishop's Stortford	Premises Licence Variation	Granted with conditions
Silver Leys Polo Club	Little Hadham	New Premises Licence	Granted with conditions
Proove	Hertford	New Premises Licence	Granted with conditions

4. Temporary Event Notices

The number of TEN's received by the authority in Q1 was 36 more than in the same period of 2020. This is a result of the Covid-19

regulations limiting the numbers of persons able to gather and the types of events allowed to proceed.

As Members are aware only the Police and Environmental Health can object to TEN's and they also both have powers under the regulation relating to Covid-19.

The Service Manager – Licensing & Enforcement sits on the County Wide “Events Coordination Group”. The group was formed to provide a forum for supporting Safety Advisory Groups (SAG's) & Safety Advisory Teams (SAT's) across the county with a particular focus on ensuring any events are covid safe.

As part of this work all TEN's received by the Licensing Team are forwarded in a redacted form to East Herts Sag so that they are aware of events and can flag up concerns where necessary.

5. Pavement Licences

As part of the measures to assist the hospitality industry during this very difficult time Central Government introduced a fast track version of the Pavement Licensing regime administered by County Councils. The temporary regime has been extended to September 2022 and the appropriate changes to the policy have been made to accommodate this. The period of time for which a granted licence lasts has been amended from 7 months to 12 months.