

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE – 21 JULY 2011

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

LICENSING ACTIVITY QUARTERS 1 and 2, 2011

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

To update Members on activity in the Licensing section re;

- processing licences,
- enforcement activity: and
- other implementation of the Service Plan.

RECOMMENDATION that the report be received

1.0 Background

1.1 This report presents data by full quarters on processing and enforcement data, and Licensing Sub Committee involvement, on licences, notices, and permits, and applications including:

- Alcohol, entertainment, and late night refreshment licences under the Licensing Act 2003,
- Gaming under the Gambling Act 2005,
- Taxi drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators.

1.2 This report also records developments in the service that implement the Service Plan.

2.0 Report

2.1 Essential Reference Paper B gives performance data for quarter 1- 1 January – 31 March 2011, and quarter 2 - 1 April – 30 June 2011. This contains the numbers of applications or notices received, and totals of current licences.

2.2 During this quarter the enforcement team have undertaken 49 visits or inspections. These have been analysed further and are recorded as:

- Taxi Inspections and Investigations 10
- Premises Complaints and Visits 39
- Gambling Premises visits 2
- Blue Notice visits 1
- Invoice Visits/chase ups 6
- House to House Collection complaints 0
- Taxi Camera Investigations 3
- TENS Complaints and Investigations 2

All complaints regarding taxis and premises have been fully investigated.

2.3 In respect of premises, the breaches of the licences have been addressed in accordance with the Licensing Enforcement Policy. In the previous report mention was made of a pending prosecution.

2.4 During the previous reporting period a large amount of effort had been made by the team to recover annual fees from licensed premises. During this period the number of visits has fallen dramatically. Invoices are still being collected at a rate of over 90%. Currently at the time of reporting there are 17 outstanding invoices.

2.5 Resident complaints have fallen very slightly, and 18 complaints were received compared to 22 in the last period. All resident complaints were investigated and action taken. These included visits, letters, and joint action with partners or enforcement in accordance with the East Herts Licensing Enforcement Policy. A significant complaint received during this period related to Sawbridgeworth May Fair.

2.6 A significant part of the enforcement team's work is to ensure that all documentation for taxi drivers and vehicles is current and licences are valid. During this quarter 76 letters were produced.

2.7 A new 'penalty points' system has been implemented, and has led to points being imposed against two drivers and one proprietor. It is hoped that this will contribute to improving drivers' and proprietors' behaviour, although it was not necessary to bring any existing taxi drivers to Licensing Sub-Committees for decision during this quarter.

2.8 In order to reduce service costs in line with the service plan, there is a proposal presented separately to this committee to replace taxi licensing decisions at Licensing Sub Committee, with decisions by a Licensing Panel.

2.9 Funding appears to have been secured for Taxi Marshalls, at a slightly reduced number of hours per week.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor M Alexander – Executive Member for
Community Safety and Environment

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds – Head of Community Safety and
Licensing – Contact Tel Ext No 1498

Report Author: Paul Newman – Interim Licensing Manager

ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives <i>(delete as appropriate)</i> :	Promoting prosperity and well-being; providing access and opportunities <i>Enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</i>
Consultation:	For information only, and no partner or external consultation has taken place.
Legal:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Financial:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Human Resource:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer
Risk Management:	No issues identified by report author or contact officer

Essential Reference Paper B
 Q1 2011 – 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011

Licensing Act 2003			
Premises Licences			
	Variation;		
	<i>Tescos (Hertford)</i>		
	<i>Tescos (Bishops Stortford)</i>		
	<i>Tescos (Ware)</i>		
		3	
	Reviews;		
		0	
	Minor Variation;		
		0	
	Other Processes;		
	Disapply DPS	0	
	Transfer	4	
	Change DPS	10	
	Total number of premises licences re-issued		17
	New;		
	<i>Whitakers ()</i>		
	<i>Snowley Wine and Beer (Bishops Stortford)</i>		
	<i>The Good Intent (Station Road, Sawbridgeworth)</i>		
		3	
	Club Certificates		3
		0	
	Other licences and notices		
	Personal Alcohol Licence		
	New applications	2	
	Other processes	3	
			5
	Temporary Event Notices		
	1 January to 31 March 2011		
	Served	171	
	Police Objections	0	
	Objections upheld	0	
			171
	Gambling Act 2005		
	New and varied premises;	0	
	Gaming Machine Notices	0	
	Small Society Lotteries – New and renew	1	
			1
	Taxis		
	New Dual Drivers	8	

	Renewed Dual Drivers	25	
	New Private Hire Drivers	2	
	Renewed Private Hire Drivers	0	
	Total driver applications processed this quarter		35
	New Operators	0	
	Renewed Operators	1	
	Total Operator applications processed this quarter		1
	New Hackney Carriage	1	
	Renewed Hackney Carriage	34	
	New Private hire Vehicles	1	
	Renewed Private hire Vehicles	3	
	Change of Vehicle	11	
	Total vehicle applications processed this quarter		50
	All applications this quarter		283

Sub Committee hearings arranged this quarter;

Hertford Council Chamber at 10 a.m. 21/3/11	Vary Premises Licence (extension of hours)	Tesco Ware 5-6 West Street Ware Herts SG12 9EE
Hertford Council Chamber at 10 a.m. 21/3/11	Taxi driver applicant with conviction	Mr B
Hertford Council Chamber at 10 a.m. 21/3/11	Taxi driver applicant with conviction	Mr D
Hertford Council Chamber at 10 a.m. 21/3/11	Taxi driver applicant with conviction	Mr G
Hertford Council Chamber at 10 a.m. 21/3/11	Taxi driver applicant with conviction	Mr M

Q2 2011 – 1 April 2011 to 30 June 2011

Licensing Act 2003			
Premises Licences			
	Variation;		
	<i>The navigator (Ware)</i>		
		1	
	Reviews;		
		0	

Minor Variation		
<i>Standon Calling Music Festival (Standon)</i>	0	
<i>Brambles (Buntingford)</i>		
<i>Prezzo (Bishops Stortford)</i>		
Other Processes;		
Disapply DPS	0	
Transfer	7	
Change DPS	20	
Total number of premises licences re-issued		28
New;		
<i>Sworders Field (Cazfest, Bishops Stortford)</i>		
<i>Wareside Wines (Wareside)</i>		
<i>Wilkestock (A music festival)</i>		
<i>Stanstead Abbots River Festival (Stanstead Abbots)</i>		
<i>Zero Ristorante (Ware)</i>		
	5	
Club Certificates		
Other licences and notices		
Personal Alcohol Licence		
New applications	5	
Other processes	0	
Temporary Event Notices		
1 January to 31 March 2011		
Served	203	
Police Objections	2	
Objections upheld	2	
		216
Gambling Act 2005		
New and varied premises;		
Gaming Machine Notices		
Small Society Lotteries – New and renew	2	
		2
Taxis		
New Dual Drivers	8	
Renewed Dual Drivers	38	
New Private Hire Drivers	2	
Renewed Private Hire Drivers	0	
Total driver applications processed this quarter		48
New Operators		
Renewed Operators	2	

	Total Operator applications processed this quarter		2
	New Hackney Carriage	1	
	Renewed Hackney Carriage	27	
	New Private hire Vehicles	0	
	Renewed Private hire Vehicles	4	
	Change of Vehicle	7	
	Total vehicle applications processed this quarter		39
	All applications this quarter		335

Sub Committee hearings arranged this quarter;

11 am 12 April Stortford	New application Off licence with resident objection about potential under age sales and anti social behaviour	Snowley Beers & Wines, Snowley Parade, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5EP
12 April 2011	New Premises Licence application	Good Intent
	TEN objection –	The Fountain Station Road Bishops Stortford
24 June 2011	Ten Objection –	The Fountain Station Road Bishops Stortford