

**Licensing Activity report: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 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 matters managed by the Licensing and Enforcement Team***

**2. Taxis**

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

New applications	15
New applicants who have attended training	15
Resits of knowledge test	5
Existing drivers who have attended update training	0 Postponed due to COVID
Decisions taken by Service Manager – Licensing and Enforcement under delegated powers	6
Decisions taken by Head of Housing and Health under delegation in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee	12
Appeals against licensing points – decision by Head of Housing and Health	1 (12 Licensing Record Points issued and reduced to 7 on appeal)
Upheld	n/a
Dismissed	n/a
Appeals of decision – decision by court	1 Taxi matter (Revocation)
Upheld <i>council not successful in defending its decision</i>	1
Dismissed <i>council successful in defending its decision</i>	0
Prosecution sought	0
Successful	0
Unsuccessful	0

Judicial reviews	0
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There is a strong desire among both Members and officers to build on the council's work to promote high quality taxi licensing. In July 2020 the DfT statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards were published. Appropriate changes have been implemented from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021 following the publishing of the DfT Standards document. These will be kept under review throughout the year to ensure they are robust and fit for purpose.

### 3. Premises

During the 2020/21 financial year 7 applications were decided by Licensing Sub-Committees. There were a further 4 cancelled hearings and 1 postponed hearing. The details of the matters brought before Licensing Sub-Committees are shown below.

<b>Premises/Person</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type of application</b>	<b>Resolved</b>
Lomo Restaurant	Hertford	Premises Licence Variation	Granted with amendments
Hadham Brewery	Little Hadham	New Premises Licence	Granted with amendments
Premium Alcohol Delivery	Ware	New Premises Licence	Granted with amendments
French And Day Ltd	Ware	New Premises Licence	Granted with amendments
Waterbridge	Watton at Stone	New Premises Licence	Refused
Stone Valley South	Great Amwell	New Premises Licence	Granted with amendments

Rush Green Service Station	Hertford	Premises Licence Variation	Granted with amendments
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In addition to those matters that were brought before a Licensing Sub-Committee 3 others received representations. Officers of the Licensing Authority mediated between the respective parties and satisfactory solutions were found resulting in representations being withdrawn and applications being granted without the need for a Licensing Sub-Committee to be held.

Since the last annual report, and in response to a request from Members, a protocol for site visits has been established. This has operated successfully and the feedback is that it has assisted Members to make more informed decisions regarding the often complex licensing applications which come before Licensing Sub-Committees.

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

The authority received 100 TEN's by premises users. Only 1 TEN received an objection from the Police. As Members are aware only the Police and Environmental Health can object to TEN's. Often informal agreement is reached with premises users, TEN's are modified or even withdrawn meaning that a hearing is not required. On six occasions objection notices have been received but the concerns have been resolved between the parties meaning that hearings can be dispensed with.