

**Licensing Activity report: Q4 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023**

**1. Context**

The council's Licensing and Enforcement Team covers the licensing of taxi drivers, vehicles and operators, licensed premises and temporary events notices, along with more infrequent applications relating to, among other things, markets, street trading, scrap metal dealing, sex establishments and gambling.

Licensing of food premises and other commercial businesses subject to regulatory activity is carried out by the Environmental Health team. This activity is reported to the Licensing Committee separately.

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

**2. Taxis**

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

New driver applications	20 (10 Private Hire Drivers, 10 Dual Drivers)
Renewals	21 (21 Dual Drivers)
New applicants who have attended training	10
Resits of knowledge test	3
Existing drivers who have attended update training	8
English Competency tests taken	17
English competency tests taken with appropriate adjustments	1
Passes	6
Fails	12
Number of individuals	9
Decisions taken by Service Manager – Licensing &	5 (Vehicle applications

Enforcement under delegated powers	outside of policy, 4 granted & 1 refused)
Decisions taken by Head of Housing and Health under delegation in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee	2 (decision regarding fitness and propriety of new applicant with convictions – both refused)
Upheld	n/a
Dismissed	n/a
Appeals of decision – decision by court	0
Upheld <i>council not successful in defending its decision</i>	n/a
Dismissed <i>council successful in defending its decision</i>	n/a
Prosecution sought	0
Successful	n/a
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. Through the Herts and Beds Licensing Group and Hertfordshire Climate Change Sustainability Partnership work has been ongoing with regards to introducing a Countywide vehicle emissions policy. A draft policy and committee documents have been circulated to all Hertfordshire local authorities with a proposed timeline for implementation.

Together with the Hackney Carriage trade, we have started a review of the ranks across the district to ensure that they are in the right location and service the needs of the customers and support the trade. There are a number of factors affecting rank use, as illustrated

by the recent unmet demand survey, so the Licensing Team is taking a holistic approach to addressing these.

### **3. Premises**

During Q4 of the last financial year no applications were decided by Licensing Sub-Committees.

### **4. Temporary Event Notices (TENs)**

The number of TENs received by the authority in Q4 of 2022/23 was 145 which was 43 more than in the same period of 2021/22.

It is worth noting that only the Police and Environmental Health can object to a TEN.