

Taunton Deane Borough Council

Licensing Committee – 28 June 2011

Licensing Update Report

Report of the Licensing Manager

(This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Ken Hayward)

1. Executive Summary

The report provides an update on the activities of the Licensing Service under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005 and Taxi Legislation together with other general licensing matters.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report is produced to keep the Council's statutory committee up to date with current arrangements and statistics relating to the Licensing Service.

3. Report

Licensing Act 2003

- 3.1 Although application numbers show a slight downward trend overall there has been little change in the number of Premises Licences and Club Premises Certificates within Taunton Deane since the figures presented to this Committee at its meeting on 9 March 2011. Application numbers for personal licences have held steady while Temporary Event Notices are showing a slight increase. The total numbers of licences issued and notices given up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 One Licensing Sub Committee has been held since the date of the last Committee. On 24 March 2011 an application for the variation of a premises licence was considered. Mediation between the parties to the application resulted in an agreed position being put before the Committee who resolved to approve the agreed position and vary the premises licence accordingly.
- 3.3 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill at the time of writing is at the committee stage at the House of Lords. A verbal update on the potential implications of the matters within the Bill that relate to the Licensing Act will be made to the Committee.

- 3.4 Although service requests have been received since the last update to committee, a continued co-ordinated multi agency approach has again secured remedy or compliance without the need for formal legal action.

Gambling Act 2005

- 3.5 There has been no significant change in the numbers of Permits, Registrations and Licences held with Taunton Deane and application numbers remain low. The total numbers of Licences issued and notices given up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 2.

Taxis

- 3.6 The licensed Taxi fleet within Taunton Deane has shown a very small increase of vehicles since January 2011 whereas the number of drivers has fallen. The total numbers of Licences issued up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 3.
- 3.7 Following agreement from the Taxi Forum the Licensing Team are conducting a pro-active operation to prevent drivers smoking in Taxis. I am pleased to report that on the whole compliance with the smoking legislation is good however to date six fixed penalty notices have been served.

Taxi Forum

- 3.9 The 3rd Taxi Forum will be held on 23 June 2011. Membership of the Forum is made up of representatives from licensed drivers and operators put forward by the trade themselves, Licensing Officers and members of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.10 A verbal report of topics discussed at the Forum will be made to the Committee.
- 3.11 The Licensing Team would be happy to send the minutes, when published, to any members who would like to see them.

Street Trading & Pavement Cafes

- 3.12 Although there have been a number of new Street Trading Consents and one new Pavement Café Permit issued since January the overall numbers remain relatively unchanged. The total number of permits and licences issued up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 4.
- 3.13 Applications requesting an extension of the timings into the evening for two pavement cafes have been approved. As with the process for granting a new permit, partner agencies including the Police, County Highways and Town Centre Company were consulted and have welcomed this extension of the café culture in the High Street.

Street Traders Forum

- 3.14 At the request of Traders the next Forum will take place at the end of the summer.

Animal Welfare Licensing

- 3.15 Numbers of Licences held within the Borough have dropped slightly. The total numbers of licences consents and permits issued up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 5.

Other Licensing

- 3.16 Several areas of Licensing have seen increases in application numbers however apart from Skin Piercing these have been in those areas of licensing that do not attract a fee. The total number of licences, consents, registrations and permits issued up to the end of May 2011 are set out in Appendix 6.

Street Parties

- 3.17 The Licensing Team received twelve applications for street parties for the Royal Wedding in April and one for the Big Lunch in June. The Licensing Team adopted the guidance from central government and worked with Democratic Services and the Police to provide an easy to use process for the Parties and associated Road Closures. Feedback from organisers of events has been very positive.

4. Finance Comments

Income continues to be below expected levels across the whole of Licensing and close monitoring of trends continues. There is no direct influence that can be applied as income is directly linked to the vibrancy of the local and national economy.

5. Legal Comments

The legal implications are set out within the report.

6. Links to Corporate Aims

As an update report there are no links to specific corporate aims. However if the Licensing function were not carried out in an efficient manner, complaints or legal challenges may be brought that could undermine the work being done to support the Council's Corporate Strategy.

7. Environmental and Community Safety Implications

None identified.

8. Equalities Impact

Not required.

9. Risk Management

No risk identified.

10. Partnership Implications (if any)

None identified.

11. Recommendations

That the report be noted.

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Licensing Act 2003

Licences Issued and Notices Given

Premises Licences	384
Club Premises Certificates	29
Personal Licences	968
Temporary Event Notices	1664

Applications Received and Notices Given

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
Grant of a Premises Licence	2	1	3	2
Variation of a Premises Licence	1	1	2	0
Transfer of a Premises Licence	4	3	3	1
Change of Designated Premises Supervisor	9	3	7	5
Minor Variations	0	3	0	0
Grant of a Personal Licence	2	8	7	7
Temporary Event Notices given	20	32	33	38

Gambling Act 2005

Licences Issued and Notices Given

Club Machine Permit	8
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permits	5
Occasional Use Notices	13
Premises Licences	16
Prize Gaming Permits	0
Society Lotteries	190
Temporary Use Notices	0
Unlicensed Family Entertainment Centres	2
Notification of 2 or less Gaming Machines	60

Applications Received and Notices Given

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
Applications for a Permit	0	0	0	0
Application for a Licence	3	3	3	1
Notification of Intent to have Gaming Machines	0	1	0	0
Occasional Use Notice	3	1	1	0

Taxis

Licences Issued

Hackney Carriages	167
Private Hire Vehicles	30
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers	239
Private Hire Operators	27

Applications Received

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
Hackney Carriage Licence (including renewals, transfers and vehicle changes)	25	8	21	21
Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers Licence (including renewals)	15	28	8	12
Private Hire Vehicle Licence	2	4	1	2
Private Hire Operator Licence	1	0	3	2

Street Trading

Consents & Permits Issued

Street Trading Consents	50
Pavement Café Permits	16

Applications Received

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
New Consents	10	10	11	12
Renewals		21	7	1

Animal Licensing

Licences Issued

Zoo Licences	0
Pet Shop Licences	13
Dog Breeding Licence	2
Home Boarding Licence	12
Riding Establishment Licences	8
Dangerous Wild Animal Licences	2

Applications Received

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
Zoo Licences (including renewals)	0	0	0	0
Pet Shop Licences (including renewals)	0	0	1	0
Dog Breeding Licence (including renewals)	0	0	0	0
Home Boarding Licence (including renewals)	1	0	0	0
Riding Establishment Licences (including renewals)	0	0	0	1
Dangerous Wild Animal Licences	0	0	0	0

Other Licensing

Licences, Registrations and Permits Issued

Caravan Site Licences	42
House to House Collection Permit	78
Motor Salvage Operator	4
Scrap Metal Dealer Registration	13
Sex Shop Licences	2
Skin Piercing Registrations	175
Street Collection Permits	229
Street Parties	13

Applications Received

	Feb-11	Mar-11	Apr-11	May-11
New Applications	4	44	8	23
Renewals			1	0