

Licensing Summary 2023/24

Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Recommended:

That the Licensing Summary 2023/24 be noted.

SUMMARY:

This report provides a summary of licences and associated activity under the Licensing Act 2003, Gambling Act 2005, taxi licensing and the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Licensing Section of the Legal and Democratic Service carries out a variety of work to support the statutory responsibility of the Borough Council to undertake various licensing functions set within the different pieces of legislation governing licensable activities.

2 Background

- 2.1 The content of this report provides summary information not normally brought to the attention of councillors through the year. A breakdown of the main areas of licensing is shown in the attached annex with figures for the previous year included for comparison purposes.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 Virtually all aspects of licensing fall within the broader remit of public safety which cuts across the Council's Corporate Plan aim of supporting our communities to thrive with particular reference to the priorities of environment and prosperity.
- 3.2 Licensing primarily is concerned with the protection of the public. In the area of taxi licensing, the Council's role in safeguarding and protecting the travelling public cannot be understated.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 No specific consultation has taken place in respect of this report. It should be noted that licensing involves a significant amount of communication not only with applicants and residents but also a diverse range of external stakeholders including (but not limited to) the following: Police, Fire & Rescue Service,

HM Revenue & Customs, Security Industry Authority, Home Office Immigration Enforcement, licensing lawyers, event organisers, charities, National Anti-Fraud Network, other local authorities, the Cabinet Office, the Gambling Commission, Environment Agency, DVLA, Disclosure & Barring Service, Department of Work & Pensions, Motor Insurers Bureau and DEFRA.

5 Options and Option Appraisal

- 5.1 The report provides a summary of licensing activities undertaken throughout 2023/24 and is for noting therefore the options are to note or not note the report.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising from the report.

7 Legal Implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the report.

8 Equality Issues

- 8.1 The content of this report and recommendation do not require an Equalities Impact Assessment to be carried out.

9 Other Issues

- 9.1 Community Safety – none other than the general comments in paragraph 3.1 above.
- 9.2 Environmental Health Issues – none.
- 9.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – none.
- 9.4 Property Issues – none.
- 9.5 Wards/Communities Affected – all.

10 Conclusion

- 10.1 The work of the Licensing Team is varied and keeps those staff involved in delivering licensing functions fully engaged as there is a high degree of contact and communication with customers. Taxi licensing remains challenging as the Council strives to ensure the safety of the travelling public.

Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)

None

Confidentiality

It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.

No of Annexes:

1

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File Ref:

N/A

Report to:

Licensing Committee

Date:

30 May 2024