



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	5th March 2014
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning and Public Protection
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Senior Licensing Officer <a href="mailto:licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk">licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> 01824 706451
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Licensing Committee Forward Work Programme 2014/15</b>

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.2 To advise Members of the proposed Forward Work Programme for 2014/15.

**2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

2.1 A proposed Forward Work Programme is attached, at appendix 1, for Members to consider and approve.

**3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

3.1 Members will be aware that at the last meeting of the Licensing Committee, Officers informed you that, due to a number of unforeseen circumstances, the Forward Work Programme had not been fully adhered to. It was also agreed that a 2 year Forward Work Programme would be presented to Members at the next Licensing Committee.

3.2 We are now in a position to report to Members on a proposed revised Forward Work Programme. This programme will incorporate reviews of licensing policies as well as proposals to adopt any new regional policies that officers have contributed to or are made aware of.

3.3 There are a number of proposed changes to the Licensing Act 2003, One is the Deregulation Bill which is currently before Parliament, which proposes a number of small changes to the Licensing Act 2003. Another forthcoming change is the addition of a new mandatory condition, concerning banning alcohol sales at a price below the cost of alcohol duty plus VAT.

3.4 Local Authorities are also waiting for a final implementation date for setting of local fees and charges for functions under the Licensing Act and Gambling Act. Once in force, this is a large piece of complex work,

that will be in addition to the existing fee review.

- 3.5 With regards to the review of fees and charges, Officers would like to update Members as to the current position. The All Wales Licensing Technical Panel have prepared a Fee Tool Kit to assist Local Authorities when setting their Licensing fees and charges. The Tool Kit will be available to Welsh Authorities very soon.
- 3.6 Members are aware, any fees and charges set must be fully justifiable, and until the final staff structure for the Service has been approved, Officers are unable to complete this task as until it becomes apparent which staff and which grades are carrying out the licensing functions, it will be difficult to come to a justifiable figure for the fees and charges.
- 3.7 Taking all the above into consideration, Officers therefore feel it is more appropriate to produce a slightly shorter forward work programme as opposed to 2 years, as agreed, due to the number of proposed changes in legislation.
- 3.8 Officers are currently consulting with the hackney carriage and private hire licence holders and interested parties, on a couple of Policies drafted by the All Wales Licensing Technical Panel, namely a Conviction Policy for drivers and operators and Intended Use Policy for hackney carriage vehicles. Members will be advised of the outcome of the consultation at the next committee meeting in June.
- 3.9 Officers are further consulting with the trade on a revised Penalty Point policy and procedure for licensed Operators and Drivers. Once again, Officers will be reporting the outcome of the consultation with Members at the next committee meeting in June. If approved, this will provide an additional tool for Officers to enforce non-compliant licensees.
- 3.10 There are a number of complex policy reviews that need to be undertaken, which will require extensive research by Officers, for example taxi licensing, Sex Establishment, Street Trading. Members will be aware that work is ongoing with the taxi licensing review and Officers will report on the different elements of the review, as detailed in the attached forward work programme.
- 3.11 **RECOMMENDATION**

For Members to note the contents of the report and to approve the Forward Work Programme, as detailed at Appendix 1.