



REPORT TO:	Licensing Committee
DATE:	10th June 2015
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Planning and Public Protection
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SUBJECT:	Forward Work Programme 2015/16

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.2 To advise Members of the priorities of the Licensing Section, together with a proposed work programme for the Licensing Committee for the year 2015/16.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 The priorities of the Licensing Section reflect the duty placed on the Authority in relation to its responsibilities in relation to its licensing function, and the effective regulation, control and enforcement of Licensees, and the Authority's commitment to safer communities and the development of the economy.

- 2.2 The priorities identified for 2015/16 are:

1. Review of Statement of Licensing Policy
2. Review of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Policy and conditions
3. Review of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver policy and conditions
4. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle and Operator policy and conditions
5. Proposed Scrap Metal Dealers Policy
6. Review of Sex Establishment Policy
7. Review of Street Trading Policy

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members may recall that at the last meeting in September, Officers informed you that a revised work programme would be presented to Members following changes of priorities of the Licensing Administration

Section. The priorities that have been identified have a realistic timeframe for Officers to adhere to.

- 3.2 Hackney Carriage /Private Hire Driver policy and conditions Review**
To place a report before Members detailing the criteria that all new applicants for a licence to drive a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle must meet and to ask Members to consider whether any amendments are necessary in order to improve the standard of licensed drivers, with particular emphasis on ensuring the appropriate measures are in place to address the protection of children and vulnerable adults.
- 3.3 Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle and Operator policy and conditions review**
To place a report before Members detailing the criteria that all new and renewal applicants for a hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licence and Private hire operator licence must meet and to ask Members to consider whether any amendments are necessary in order to improve the standards of vehicles and operators, with particular emphasis on ensuring that appropriate measures are in place to address the safety of the traveling public.
- 3.4 Review of Street Trading Policy**
To place a report and revised policy before Members detailing the criteria for all new and renewal applicants to follow and to ask Members to consider the proposed amendments in the regime for better regulation and support of Street Trading in the County.
- 3.5 Review of Sex Establishment Policy**
To place a report before Members detailing the criteria that all new and renewal applicants for a Sex Establishment licence must meet and to also consider incorporating Section 27 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 which reclassifies lap dancing clubs as sexual entertainment venues and gives local authorities the power to regulate such venues as sex establishments under Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982.
- 3.6 Proposed Scrap Metal Dealers Policy**
To place a report and draft policy before Members dealing a criteria that all new and renewal applicants for a Scrap Metal Dealers licence must meet. The proposed policy will set out administrative, compliance and enforcement requirements to aid Officers and licence holders.
- 3.7 Review of Statement of Licensing Policy**
To place a report before Members detailing the requirements to review the Statement of Licensing Policy as required by the Licensing Act 2003

every five years.

- 3.8 The above priorities will form the main work programme for the Licensing Committee for the next 18 months.
- 3.9 The suggested forward work programme for the Licensing Committee for 2015/16 is attached at Appendix 1. The work of the Committee should reflect and direct the Licensing Section and it is hoped that the Committee will monitor progress of the Section and offer advice and guidance when appropriate.
- 3.10 Should Members be minded to approve the proposed Forward Work Programme, the priorities will drive a series of planned actions that will lead to the desired outcomes. Please see Appendix 2 with proposed Action Plans.
- 3.11 Members will recall that at the last meeting in March, some Members requested that a report be brought to a future meeting on the feasibility of restricting hackney carriage numbers in the County to help address the issues on the ranks. Following Elected Member training held last month (with a Licensing Legal Specialist), where restricting numbers was discussed at length, in particular to the hefty costs associated with demand surveys and to the potential length of time it could take to reduce the number of hackney carriage vehicles in the County, it was recommended by Members that Officers should not dedicate time or resources to this matter.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 To remove the regulation of Hackney Carriage Vehicles from the Forward Work Programme for 2015/16
- 4.2 It is recommended that the Licensing Committee consider and approve the Forward Work Programme for the Licensing Committee and the Priorities for the Licensing Section for the year 2015/16.