

REPORT TO:	Licensing Committee
DATE:	8th December 2021
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Service
CONTACT OFFICER:	Senior Licensing Officer licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk 01824 706433
SUBJECT:	Forward Work Programme 2022

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.2 To advise Members of the priorities of the Licensing Section, together with an update on the agreed work programme for the Licensing Committee for the year 2022.

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 Due to unforeseen priorities, the Forward Work Programme approved by Members at a previous meeting has unfortunately had to be amended and matters have been re-scheduled for consideration.

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Members may recall that at the last meeting in September 2021, Officers presented an updated work programme which was approved. Officers were scheduled to present a number of updated matters for your consideration to this meeting, however due to a number of factors, such matters will be presented to you at a future meeting. A revised Forward Work Programme can be found at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Officers have taken this opportunity to provide Members with an update on matters that should have been brought to this meeting as detailed below:

3.2.1 Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Statement of Licensing Policy

Work is on-going to enable Officers to publish the consultation document on a proposed Statement of Licensing Policy for the taxi trade following the recommendations by Department for Transport to implement the Statutory Standards which is supported by Welsh Government, who have recently produced a policy template for Welsh authorities use. The consultation document is now in its final stages and Officers are working with the Council's Public Engagement Officer to publish the consultation via the County Conversation portal.

3.2.2 Review of Statement of Principles – Gambling Act 2005

A review of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Principles is taking place collectively with the six North Wales authorities and once the review has been completed, Officers will be in a position to produce the proposed review to Members.

3.3.3 Review of Street Trading policy

Members will recall that, at the meeting of June 23rd 2021, Officers presented a draft review of the Street Trading Policy. At this meeting Members resolved to approve the draft policy for consultation and agreed to support the establishment of a Sub-Group to further consider the policy. Members also resolved that the Sub-Group should include the Chair or Vice Chair, along with a representative of each of the Member Area Groups. Unfortunately, due to demands on Members' time, the meeting with representatives that was originally planned had to be postponed and the sub group is now scheduled to meet late November. In the meantime, preparations are ongoing with the Council's Public Engagement Officer in order to publish the consultation via the County Conversation portal when we are ready to do so.

3.3.4 Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003

At the last meeting in September Members authorised officers to consult on a revised statement of policy. Since that meeting, it has become apparent that the current version of the policy does not meet the accessibility requirements and would need significant changes to bring it up to the acceptable standards. Officers have therefore considered options and believe it is an opportunity, to look at using the template developed by North Wales authorities. There are no significant differences to the contents of the Council's policy when compared to the North Wales template but more a case of appearance and format. Officers will therefore report back to a future meeting following consultation.

3.3.5 Review of Fees and Charges

Fees and charges for the administration of taxi licensing process were last reviewed and updated in 2018. Whilst these fees should be regularly reviewed this work was deferred as the timing coincided with the covid pandemic. Additionally, work is ongoing to implement an online application system which would significantly alter the application process. Further, officers have received requests for a review of the hackney carriage tariff charges, which were also updated in 2018.

Officers are proposing to proceed with both reviews alongside each other and consult with current licensees on those fees, charges and tariff and report back to the Licensing Committee at its March meeting

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report, and
- 4.2 It is further recommended that Members consider and approve the revised Forward Work Programme detailed at Appendix 1 for the year 2022.