

REPORT TO:	Licensing Committee
DATE:	2nd March 2022
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 December 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 present to you at a future meeting. A revised Forward Work Programme can be found at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Officer 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

Officers are progressing well with the development of a draft 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. Officers have undertaken an interim consultation exercise with members of the taxi trade to gauge the opinions of those working within the trade, however, work is on-going to finalise the policy document, which will go to all the trade and the wider public, as agreed by members at the meeting in June 2021.

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

At the Licensing Committee held on 23rd June 2021, Members approved a draft review of the Street Trading Policy. They further agreed to support the establishment of a Sub-Group made up of representatives of each of the Member Area Groups, the purpose of which is to work with officers to further develop the policy prior to submitting a final version for approval and subsequent consultation. Since the last update, the Sub-Group has met twice and it has been agreed that there are still major issues such as markets and prohibited streets that require further consideration. It was proposed that Members discuss these matters with their respective groups prior to our next meeting.

3.3.4 Statement of Licensing Policy – Licensing Act 2003

At the meeting in September Members authorised officers to consult on a revised statement of policy. Since that meeting, Officers have been working on ensuring the revised version of the policy meets the accessibility requirements prior to publishing the consultation. The consultation document is now ready and Officers are working with the Council's Public Engagement Officer to ensure that the statutory consultation requirements are met. Following consultation a report will be placed before Full Council to consider adopting the revised policy.

3.3.5 Review of Fees and Charges

Certain fees within the remit of the Licensing section are set within

legislation e.g. alcohol and gambling licences. Where fees can be locally set by individual authorities these are regularly reviewed to ensure they meet cost recovery of the processes involved. Officers have been working on implementing electronic means of applying for licences which will significantly change the current process for application and grant of a licence. Officers are proposing to defer any review of current fees until such time as new processes are ready to be implemented during the year. This will not affect the ongoing considerations for the tariff charges.

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 A for the year 2022.