

REPORT TO:	Licensing Committee
DATE:	5 th March 2024
LEAD OFFICER:	Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
CONTACT OFFICER:	Senior Licensing Officer licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk 01824 706433
SUBJECT:	Forward Work Programme 2024

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 2024.

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

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In drafting this Forward Work Programme, Officers have considered the policies relevant to the Licensing committee and the review dates of those policies along with any potential legislative changes being proposed by Welsh and Central Government.
- 3.2 Members will recall that at the last meeting in December, it was agreed to bring a further report back to this meeting on the hackney carriage fare review following the outcome of the fare calculator work. Unfortunately, due to insufficient data received from the trade it is not possible at this stage to formulate an accurate and effective calculator. More data from licence holders is essential and Officers are planning face to face visits at

our ranks to encourage more licence holders to submit data. It is therefore envisaged that we can update Members at the June meeting.

- 3.3 As a result of a representation from one of our larger Operators to review the licensing process for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs), Officers are proposing to bring a report to the June meeting for Members consideration. Currently WAVs are required to meet the same licensing criteria as any other vehicle, however the costs associated with WAVs are much higher than a non-wheelchair accessible vehicle. A review of the current process is supported by Denbighshire School Transport as they have highlighted the need for additional WAVs to carry out school contracts.
- 3.4 A report was scheduled on a review of the existing Private Hire Plate Exemption Policy, however, Officers felt it was more appropriate to re-schedule this item to include it with the review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy and conditons which is scheduled for December.
- 3.5 A further update report on the new Special Procedures legislation was due to be presented to Members, however, there has been no update since the last meeting in December, and it is therefore proposed to re-schedule this item to a future meeting.
- 3.6 A revised Forward Work Programme can be found at Appendix A to include the above matters.

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 updated Forward Work Programme detailed at Appendix A for 2024.