

Report to:	Licensing and Regulatory Committee	Date of Meeting:	Monday, 15 June 2020
Subject:	Local Licensing: Performance Report 2019/20		
Report of:	Head of Highways and Public Protection	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:			
Is this a Key Decision:	N	Included in Forward Plan:	N
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

To report the progress against the 2019/20 Local Licensing Service Plan.

Recommendation(s):

That Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

- i) Notes this report; and
- ii) Requests that similar reports be brought on an annual basis.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

In order that the Licensing & Regulatory Committee can have an overview of the work carried out by the Local Licensing Unit.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct financial implications associated with the report.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Yes
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services: Yes
Place – leadership and influencer:
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customers Services has been consulted and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council. (FD 6007 /20).

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has also been consulted with regard to any legal implications and any comments have been incorporated into the report. (LD 4190/20).

(B) External Consultations

None.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Kevin Coady
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2946
Email Address:	kevin.coady@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

None.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Details of licensing applications accepted for process

- 1.1 During the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 962 applications were accepted for process under the Licensing Act 2003 ("the LA03"), this representing an 8% decrease over the 1,046 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.
- 1.2 Under the Gambling Act 2005 ("the GA05"), 32 applications were accepted for process, this representing a 16% decrease over the 38 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.
- 1.3 With respect to general licensing applications (pet shops, animal welfare, scrap metal dealers, personal treatment registrations etc.), 132 applications were received, this representing a 17% decrease over the 158 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.
- 1.4 With respect to permit applications for street collections, 70 applications were received, this representing a 35% decrease over the 108 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.
- 1.5 With respect to those permit applications for house to house collections, 39 applications were received, this representing a 95% increase over the 20 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

2. Advertisement of certain LA03 applications

- 2.1 In order to ensure that Grant and Variation applications are brought to residents' / businesses' attention, since 25 April 2012 (via legislation introduced into the LA03 by The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) the Licensing Unit has been required to advertise these types of applications on the Council website (this is in addition to the existing provisions which were retained whereby the applicant has to advertise the application in a newspaper and on the premises).
- 2.2 In respect of Sefton these Notices can be found via a dedicated page on the Council website via:

www.sefton.gov.uk/business/licensing-registration/entertainment,-alcohol-and-late-night-refreshment/licensing-act-public-notices.aspx.

2.3 During the relevant period there were 47 applications received which required such advertisement; these comprised of 32 Grant applications and 15 Variation applications, this representing a 25% decrease over the 63 applications received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

3. Sefton's LA03 leafleting notification scheme

3.1 This scheme was formally adopted by Members at their Meeting on 6 June 2011. The scheme involves the Licensing Unit going over and above the advertising provisions of the LA03 by proactively informing those occupiers and owners of properties with curtilages abutting premises, who have made certain applications under the LA03, of the fact of that application.

3.2 As a consequence Licensing Officers sent out a total of 252 notifications to residents / businesses; the average being 6 notifications sent per application.

3.3 The Licensing Unit received no objections from residents / businesses leafleted as a result of this activity.

4. Reports submitted to Licensing Sub-Committee

4.1 During the relevant period 9 Reports were submitted by the Unit for consideration by the Licensing Sub-Committee, this representing a 29% increase over the 7 Reports submitted during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

5. Details of Reviews held

5.1 During the relevant period no premise licence review applications were received, this representing no change from the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

5.2 During the relevant period 4 personal licence reviews were heard, this representing a 300% increase over the 1 personal licence review heard during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

6. Details of LA03 Licences surrendered

6.1 At their Meeting on 19 November 2012 Members RESOLVED that any future Performance Reports should "*provide details of surrendered Licences*".

6.2 During the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 18 Licences were surrendered, this representing a 14% decrease over the 21 Licences which were surrendered during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019.

7. Programmed inspections

7.1 The guidance issued under Section 182 of the LA03 states that the "*2003 Act does not require inspections to take place save at the discretion of those charged with this role. Principles of risk assessment and targeted inspection (in line with the recommendations of the Hampton review) should prevail*".

- 7.2 The guidance issued under Section 25 of the GA05 states that local authorities “*should adopt a risk-based approach when determining the frequency at which gambling premises are to be inspected*”.
- 7.3 In implementing both inspection regimes Sefton has adopted these recommended approaches.
- 7.4 The following number of inspections were undertaken between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020:

Inspection Regime	Number of inspections for year
Licensing Act 2003	107
Gambling Act 2005	3
LGMPA 1982	1

- 7.5 During the inspections themselves, licensing officers carry out a proactive audit of the premise against its licensing conditions reviewing the suitability of the licence conditions against current use as well as reviewing any mandatory conditions imposed by the LA03 or the GA05 as applicable.
- 7.6 Officers also actively promote Council initiatives such as ‘Knock Back’ as well as the continued usage of the Council Door Supervisor Logbooks, the Designated Premise Supervisor delegation forms as well as continuing to publicise the Drink Less Enjoy More initiative.

8. Details of Service Requests received

- 8.1 During the relevant period the Unit received and dealt with 864 service requests. This representing a 3% decrease over the 891 service requests received during the equivalent 12 month period for 2018/2019. Of these 24 took the form of LA03 complaints.
- 8.2 With regard to the Doorman Logbooks the Unit dealt with 18 requests for Logbooks to be dispatched, with 1 request for a “Knock Back” pack to be despatched also received.
- 8.3 Of the remaining service requests the following were requests to the section for guidance, advice or information: 536 under the LA03, 50 under the GA05, with 235 under general licensing.
- 8.4 All of the above matters were attended to within the departmental timescales laid down for such matters.