

TITLE: GENERAL LICENSING UPDATE

Committee: Licensing Committee

Date: 11 February 2025

Author: Stewart Broome, Licensing Manager

Report number: AA140

Contact officer: Stewart Broome, Licensing Manager
stewart.broome@eastcambs.gov.uk, 01353 616287, SF204, The Grange, Ely

1.0 Issue

- 1.1 To inform Members of the ongoing work of the Licensing Authority and emerging matters

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

3.0 Summary

Licensing work

- 3.1 In the full year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025 the Licensing Authority received and processed 5,708 cases, a substantial increase over the previous full year figure of 1223 cases. To cope with the increased workload and associated queries and enforcement, the department has grown from 4 staff to 11 staff in under a year.
- 3.2 A particular highlight to note is that 5490 (96%) of these cases arrived electronically directly into the licensing mailbox, therefore reducing pressure on other areas of the Council, such as customer service and reprographics.
- 3.3 Despite the significant increase in work in the taxi area of licensing, all statutory and discretionary deadlines across all licensing types have been met.
- 3.4 Financially, the Licensing Authority is on target to recover the direct costs of the service and the corporate charges incurred by the service in this financial year despite the significant increase in costs incurred in running the service.

Tobacco and Vapes Bill

- 3.5 The Tobacco and Vapes Bill is currently at the Report Stage in the House of Lords and now expected to receive Royal Assent in the spring of this year. It is expected that the retail licensing scheme contained within this legislation is unlikely to commence until mid to late 2027. Officers will update Members as more details become available.

Health and Care Act 2022 – Special Treatment Licensing Scheme

- 3.6 The Health and Care Act 2022 gave powers to the Secretary of State to introduce a new licensing scheme for cosmetic procedures. Following the consultation exercise that was held in 2025, work is still ongoing, but there is no official commencement date at this time. Until such time as this new legislation commences, tattooing, semi-permanent skin colouring, ear-piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture will remain a registration scheme processed by this Council's Commercial Section.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the content of this report.

6.0 Additional Implications Assessment

- 6.1 In the table below, please put Yes or No in each box:

Financial Implications No	Legal Implications No	Human Resources (HR) Implications No
Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) No	Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA) No	Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) No

Background Documents

Location

Contact Officer

Room SF204
The Grange,
Ely

Stewart Broome
Licensing Manager
(01353) 616287