

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

INFORMATION

meeting date: 15 JUNE 2021
title: REOPENING OF LICENSED PREMISES - UPDATE
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the steps taken by the Council to assist hospitality venues to reopen safely.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives – To support local businesses and other providers of hospitality to progress towards safe and successful resumption of trade
- Corporate Priorities – To seek to ensure compliance with the requirements of licensing legislation and Covid 19 legislation.
- Other Considerations – None.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting on 23 March 2021, Members were informed of the steps being taken by the Council to support hospitality businesses and to inform them of ongoing restrictions under the Health Protection (Coronavirus Restrictions) (All Tiers) Regulations 2020, which implement the government roadmap to move society towards a more normal existence.

2.2 Since that time, restrictions under step 1 were further relaxed on 29 March 2021, step 2 became effective on 12 April 2021 and step 3 on 17 May 2021. At the time of preparation of this report, it is not yet clear whether the restrictions under these regulations will be removed from 21 June 2021 as had been hoped.

3 ISSUES

3.1 The Council's Covid Enforcement and Licensing Enforcement staff have been liaising with the Police and other local authorities to seek to ensure that a consistent approach is taken throughout Lancashire. Material has been made available on the Council website, by electronic communication to businesses and venues, and by delivery when officers have visited premises in response to queries or complaints. The majority of visits have been to assist businesses in making arrangements to open safely; where there have been complaints, these have been investigated and the vast majority have been resolved by verbal advice. The vast majority of businesses have welcomed the support.

3.2 It is also right to say that the majority of references to Ribble Valley premises in the Police daily licensing log arise from routine visits to licensed premises where no problems are recorded and no action is required.

3.3 By the date of this meeting, the postponed Euro 2020 tournament will have commenced. For Committee's information at Appendix 1, Members will find material distributed by the Council and generated by the Police and the British Beer and Pub Association to try to assist venues in operating successfully and safely.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Resources will be required to liaise with businesses, respond to queries, carry out visits as necessary.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Increased advice to businesses should result in greater compliance with legislation and regulation, and fewer complaints of breach.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Improved support and advice to businesses will enhance the Council's reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – No implications identified.

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

STEPHEN BARKER
SOLICITOR

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.