

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: 7 SEPTEMBER 2021
title: REOPENING OF LICENSED PREMISES - UPDATE
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
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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 time of the last meeting of committee on 15 June 2021, central government had just postponed the removal of restrictions under step 4 of the Covid 19 Roadmap until a date no earlier than 19 July 2021.
- 2.2 The relaxation of restrictions did proceed on that date.

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The Council's Covid 19 and licensing enforcement staff were proactive in seeking to support hospitality businesses and the licensed trade in preparation for reopening.
- 3.2 Since the start of June 2021, the enforcement staff received 23 Covid 19 related complaints regarding hospitality venues. The main complaints related to customers not wearing masks, or staff not self-isolating when it was believed they should have been. All complaints were investigated. No formal action was taken, either due to lack of evidence or because it was considered that verbal advice was sufficient.
- 3.3 27 requests for guidance or advice were received, with the main issue being that there was uncertainty as to the requirements of the regulations then in force. Further advice was given on visits to premises in advance of the removal of restrictions.
- 3.4 Whilst licensed premises are able once more to operate without restrictions, it is understood that trade for many premises has been reduced compared to the level of activity before the pandemic.

4 **CONCLUSION**

4.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

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