

**Report of the Assistant Director to the
Statutory Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 16 February 2022**

LICENSING UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the work Licensing Officers have undertaken with licensed premises to advise and support them during the COVID pandemic and to celebrate Barnsley being awarded the Purple Flag.

2. Background

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Officers have continued to proactively work with licensed premises and other responsible authorities throughout the pandemic to ensure that COVID requirements have been complied with.

Officers have continued to support venues and discuss issues and concerns with licensees to ensure they understand the legislation and Government guidance and that sufficient measures have been in place to maintain the safety of all involved with the premises. The Officers objective has always been to ensure that all our licensed premises have operated in accordance with the COVID regulations and requirements and that sufficient measures have been in place to maintain the safety of all involved with the premises.

3. Current Position

Licensing Officers have met with other Local Authorities and responsible authorities throughout the pandemic to assist in providing support and guidance to licensees and help them work safely during COVID-19.

Colleagues from Licensing, Public Health and Regulatory Services have been working together to provide advice and support to licenced premises during the pandemic, both prior to and since pubs and clubs have been allowed to re-open.

This work has been on-going and we have been constantly advising premises in relation to developments and changes in the requirements and the legislation.

Officers have carried out both proactive and reactive premises visits, assisted by our colleagues in Regulatory Services and Public Health. These visits were to provide support and guidance and to ensure premises were clear of the requirements and that they implemented measures to be 'covid secure'.

Regular meetings were taking place between Public Health, Licensing and Regulatory Services, to manage the work involved and to ensure that we provided a consistent approach to all licensees and where necessary meetings were also called with Licensees to explain new requirements like COVID passes.

Enforcement powers sat with Licensing, Regulatory Services and the Police. In line with our enforcement policy we always carry out enforcement in a fair and proportionate way. Throughout the pandemic our priority has always been to prevent the spread of the virus and to keep all involved safe. We were committed to supporting licensed premises through this difficult time and in most circumstances would always begin with advice, guidance and support and assist them to comply with legislation and guidance at the premises.

Officers also encouraged all licensees carry out their own COVID-19 risk assessments to identify what sensible steps were required to minimise risk at their individual premise.

As members will be aware there were many changing regulations and requirements for licensed premises to adhere to throughout the pandemic and

this increased the pressure on Officers to convey the requirements and share the changing information in a timely manner to ensure their understanding and compliance. Officers had to ensure the safety of all staff and customers attending licensed premises and this was reflected in the support given to licensees.

Officers fully appreciate how important it is that premises could work safely and support both their customers and their employees' health and wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Purple Flag Award

For the third time Barnsley has been awarded the prestigious Purple Flag accreditation for its evening and night time economy. Officers have worked with licensees to raise standards and broaden the appeal of the town and achieve the recognition for providing a vibrant and diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture while promoting the safety and wellbeing of visitors and local residents.

The award is fantastic recognition of the work that Officers and partners carry out, working with licenced premises to create a safe, welcoming and vibrant place to visit.

4. Proposal

Officers will continue to provide guidance and support to assist the premises to ensure the health and safety of all and will continue to work with and support licensed premises to provide a safe and well managed night time economy for all its visitors.

Members are asked to support Officers and encourage licensed premises to continue to keep their venues as safe as possible for both staff and customers at all times.

5. Background Papers

None available.

6. **Officer Contact**

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