

Meeting Date: 28 April 2015

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Finance, Governance and Resources Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Dr Les Tickner**

Licensing

The Gambling and Licensing Act Statement of Licensing Policies are due for revision and publication before 1st January 2016. Work has started on these and draft policies will be going out for consultation in the next few months. Following approval by the Licensing Committee the final draft will go to Full Council at the end of the year for adoption.

There have been many changes in the entertainment regulations over the years, primarily deregulating certain types of entertainment before 11pm at night and where the audience is less than 500 persons. The latest legislative reform takes effect in April 2015 and this deregulates certain entertainment that takes place on local authority, health care providers or school premises.

Under the Licensing Act, 2003, the annual fee payable for licences is fixed by central Government. There has been a proposal and consultation to change this, to make the licensing authority responsible for fee setting. The Government have just announced that this change will not take place in the near future, but may be revisited at some time.

Organisational Development

The Ethical Governance Programme for May to October 2015 has been circulated to all Members. This includes details of essential training for chairs, members and substitutes of key committees and panels in the new Civic year. If you are interested in attending any of the workshops please contact Linda Mattinson.

We are working with other Cumbrian authorities as part of the Cumbrian Member Development Network to bring training courses to Cumbria to reduce travel for Members and increase opportunities to share good practice with neighbouring councils. Information about the programme for the 2015/16 Civic year will be available shortly.

Health and Safety

Work is currently underway with the Organisation Development Team to organise this years Health, Wellbeing and Learning Day which will take place on the 19th May 2015.

Electoral Services

Arrangements are being made to administer the Parliamentary, City and Parish elections that are to be held on Thursday 7th May.

Notice of election for the City and Parish council elections was published on 20th March and the nomination period commenced on 23rd March. The Parliamentary Notice of Election was published on 31st March and the nomination period commenced on 1st April. The close of nominations for all elections was 4pm on 9th April. All Polling Stations and count venues are booked and polling staff and count staff are currently being appointed.

Risk Management

The Council's risk management policy is being reviewed and was referred to ROSP on 16th April for consultation. The Council is working towards alignment with the risk management standard ISO 31000, the preferred standard by the Council's insurance providers. This is an internationally recognised benchmark for risk management published by International Organisation of Standardisation.

It provides sound principles for effective risk management and corporate governance, and a framework and process for managing risk that can be used by any organisation regardless of its size, activity or sector.

Information Management

Recent counts for information requests (From 1 February – 31 March 2015):

- Environmental Information Regulations requests received: 13
- Environmental Information Regulations requests responded to: 10

- Freedom of Information Act requests received: 100
- Freedom of Information Act requests responded to: 108
- Data Protection Act subject access requests received: 1
- Data Protection Act subject access requests responded to: 1
- Data Protection Act s29/s35 requests received: 6
- Data Protection Act s29/s35 requests responded to: 4