

TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to:	Licensing Committee
Date of Meeting:	15 July 2021
Subject:	Review of Consultation Period for Street Trading Licences
Report of:	Interim Environmental Health Manager
Corporate Lead:	Head of Community Services
Lead Member:	Lead Member for Clean and Green Environment
Number of Appendices:	None

Executive Summary:

At the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 18 February 2021, the Committee agreed to extend the reduction of the consultation period for street trading licences. The Committee agreed to review this at each of its meetings.

This report sets out the reasoning for continuing with the reduction in the consultation period in line with the Government road map until the 19 July 2021 and allows for the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee, to amend further if the timescales set out in the Government road map changes further.

Recommendation:

- 1. To APPROVE a further extension of the reduced time period for consultations on street trading licences until 19 July in line with the current government road map for the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.**
- 2. To DELEGATE AUTHORITY to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee, to make any further amendments to the consultation time period which may be necessary beyond 19 July 2021 should the government road map for the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions change.**

Reasons for Recommendation:

To enable small business to start-up with minimal delay whilst the government's COVID-19 restrictions are still in place.

Resource Implications:

None arising from this report

Legal Implications:

None arising from this report

Risk Management Implications:

None arising from this report

Performance Management Follow-up:

None required

Environmental Implications:

None

1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

1.1 At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a need to facilitate small business start-up via street trading licensing in order to enable them to commence working without delay. With the agreement of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee, the consultation period for street trading applications was reduced from 28 days to five working days in order to facilitate this. At its meeting on 19 November 2020, the Licensing Committee subsequently agreed this should be extended until 31 March 2021 and, at the Licensing Committee meeting on 18 February 2021, it was agreed that should be further in line with the government road map for the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and reviewed at each Licensing Committee.

2.0 CURRENT POSITION

2.1 Whilst applications for street trading licences have reduced, there are still certain COVID-19 restrictions in place following the government's decision to delay the easing of restrictions. It is therefore recommended that the dispensation in respect of the consultation period for street trading applications remain in place until 19 July 2021 in line with the current government road map.

2.2 As Members will be aware, circumstances in respect of the COVID-19 pandemic can change rapidly and, in order to ensure that Officers are able to react accordingly, it is recommended that authority be delegated to the Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee, to make any further amendments to the consultation time period which may be necessary beyond 19 July 2021 should the government road map for the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions change.

3.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 None

4.0 CONSULTATION

4.1 None

5.0 RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES/STRATEGIES

5.1 The Council's Corporate Plan

6.0 RELEVANT GOVERNMENT POLICIES

6.1 None

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (Human/Property)

7.1 None

8.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS (Social/Community Safety/Cultural/ Economic/ Environment)

8.1 None

9.0 IMPACT UPON (Value For Money/Equalities/E-Government/Human Rights/Health And Safety)

9.1 None

10.0 RELATED DECISIONS AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT FACTS

10.1 None

Background Papers: Licensing Update Report - Licensing Committee 18 February 2021.

Contact Officer: Environmental Health Manager

Appendices: None