

REPORT TO	DATE OF MEETING
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE	21 MARCH 2017

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SUBJECT	PORTFOLIO	AUTHOR	ITEM
DRAFT MEMBER TRAINING PLAN	PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING	PETER HAYWOOD	9

SUMMARY AND LINK TO CORPORATE PRIORITIES

This report sets out a proposed Training Plan for members of the General Licensing Committee, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the General Licensing Committee:

1. considers the draft Training Plan attached as Appendix 1;
2. agrees to adopt appropriate elements for future implementation; and
3. with regard to member training on questions to be asked at hearings, agrees to set a date in May 2017 for this to be progressed.

DETAILS AND REASONING

Since 2015, South Ribble Borough Council's Licensing Section has been the subject of considerable media and political attention, resulting from perceived inadequacies surrounding the processing of applications for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver licences.

As a result, it is suggested that members should adopt a formal Training Plan. Appendix 1 sets out a draft for members to consider.

Given the importance of hearings under the "fit and proper test, members are requested to arrange a date for a training session on matter such as questioning technique and the issues to explore at hearings in order to determine decisions on a consistent and appropriate basis. Given that the next meeting of the GLC is in June 2017 (when driver matters are likely to be on the agenda), it is felt this session could appropriately be held in April /May 2017.

WIDER IMPLICATIONS

In the preparation of this report, consideration has been given to the impact of its proposals in all the areas listed below, and the table shows any implications in respect of each of these.

FINANCIAL	As the proposed training will be delivered in-house, the costs associated with delivering the member training plan can be met from existing budgets.
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LEGAL	The Council has responsibility to ensure that only applicants who meet the fit and proper criteria are granted hackney carriage licences. It would therefore be beneficial for members to have regular licensing training to provide updates in the law.
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RISK	There is no risk in undertaking the proposed training plan as it is imperative that members of the GLC are up to date in their knowledge and understanding of their role and its obligations. Indeed, the council could be criticised if updated licensing training was not provided.
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THE IMPACT ON EQUALITY	None
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OTHER (see below)	
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<i>Asset Management</i>	<i>Corporate Plans and Policies</i>	<i>Crime and Disorder</i>	<i>Efficiency Savings/Value for Money</i>
<i>Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion</i>	<i>Freedom of Information/ Data Protection</i>	<i>Health and Safety</i>	<i>Health Inequalities</i>
<i>Human Rights Act 1998</i>	<i>Implementing Electronic Government</i>	<i>Staffing, Training and Development</i>	<i>Sustainability</i>

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Proposed Member Training Plan 2017/18 - Appendix 1