

REPORT TO	ON
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE	13 JUNE 2017

Jan 2017



TITLE	AUTHOR	Agenda item No.
PROPOSED TAXI TRADE FORUM	PETER HAYWOOD	

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report aims to set out proposals for the future operation of Taxi Trade Forums in the Borough.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are requested to:

- 2.1 note and comment upon the suggested format of the Taxi Trade Forums set out in this report; and
 2.2 agree that a day in late June 2017 should be identified for the first such session to take place.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Clean, green and safe		Strong and healthy communities	
Strong South Ribble in the heart of prosperous Lancashire		Efficient, effective and exceptional council	X

4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

- 4.1 In recent years, members of the General Licensing Committee have met with representatives of the local licensed trade on a regular basis to discuss matters of mutual interest and concern. However, this arrangement has lapsed in recent months and such a meeting has not been held for some time.
- 4.2 At the meetings of the General Licensing Committee in February and March 2017, members expressed enthusiasm for resurrecting this dialogue and officers were asked to make appropriate arrangements. It is understood that the local taxi trade would welcome the opportunity to engage with the Committee and are keen for a Forum to be given new life, and indeed suggestions have already been received for matters to be discussed (eg the rigour of qualifications which applicants are expected to possess under the current Licensing Policy).
- 4.3 This report sets out proposals for how future Taxi Trade Forums could look, and the view of the Committee is sought in this regard.

5. FORMAT OF THE PROPOSED MEETINGS

Committee representation

- 5.1 It is proposed that formal invitations to attend the Forums should be sent to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee (along with the Portfolio Holder). Other members of the Committee would of course be free to attend the Forum if they wished. In addition, senior council officers (the Interim Licensing Manager and Revenues+ Manager) would also be present. This approach would make the meetings manageable in terms of size, whilst also reassuring the trade that there was a real opportunity to engage with senior Council officers and elected members in a meaningful way.
- 5.2 It is envisaged that the Chair of the Committee would play a leading role in the running of the Forum itself, including:
- welcoming guests to the event;
 - introducing agenda items and managing the discussion; and
 - summing up any agreed actions at the end.
- 5.3 These obligations are reflected in the suggested format in section 5.6 below.
- 5.4 Meetings would be minuted by Democratic Services and a report on the Forum then brought back to the next full meeting of the General Licensing Committee; in this way, all Committee members would be fully aware of the discussion which had taken place and would be involved in any policy decisions made as a result.

Trade attendance

- 5.5 In some boroughs there is a well-developed (and often privately-funded) trade support network, which acts as a lobbying organisation for the interests of its members. In such circumstances, discussions with the trade are easily arranged and there is a clear expectation among drivers that their representatives should be present. In the absence of such a formal trade structure in South Ribble, it is proposed that a formal invitation should be sent to:
- each local Private Hire operator, for them to send a delegate to the meeting; and
 - Hackney Carriage drivers should receive an informal invitation through word being put out at ranks across the Borough.

Length

- 5.6 It is suggested that a maximum of 90 minutes would be an appropriate duration. This would allow the following standard proposed agenda to be adopted:

Introductions and welcome – 5 mins (Chair of General Licensing Committee)

Presentation on key issues affecting the trade and advanced warning of any proposed consultation activities which may impact upon the licensed trade directly or indirectly, with general discussion – 30 mins (Licensing Manager)

Wider trade concerns / questions / issues – 45 mins (all)

Conclusions / summing up / next steps – 10 mins (Chair)

Frequency

- 5.7 It is suggested that the meetings should be held on a quarterly basis just after the scheduled meeting of the General Licensing Committee; this would allow for any key policy matters /

decisions made at the Committee to be fed back to the trade (as outlined above). If members agree, a date could be fixed for a Trade Forum to be held in late June 2017.

6. WIDER IMPLICATIONS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTATION

6.1 Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.2 Comments of the Monitoring Officer

There are no legal implications in this report.

Other implications: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk• Equality• HR	<p>None – consultation with the trade is beneficial and will enable increased dialogue on and mutual understanding of key regulatory issues.</p> <p>None</p> <p>None</p>
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7. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS (or there are no background papers to this report)

None