

Minutes of	Licensing and Public Safety Committee
Meeting date	Tuesday, 7 June 2022
Committee members present:	Councillors Jacky Alty (Chair), Renee Blow (Vice-Chair), Jane Bell, Julie Buttery, Derek Forrest, Chris Lomax, Jacqui Mort, Peter Mullineaux, Alan Ogilvie, John Rainsbury and Paul Wharton-Hardman
Committee members attended virtually (non-voting):	Councillors Keith Martin
Officers present:	Chris Ward (Licensing Manager), Tasneem Safdar (Shared Legal Services Team Leader), Coral Astbury (Democratic and Member Services Officer) and Stephanie Newby (Licensing Officer)

Public: 0

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of meeting Wednesday, 6 April 2022 of Licensing and Public Safety Committee

Resolved: (For: 9 Abstain: 2)

For: Councillors J Alty, R Blow, J Bell, J Buttery, D Forrest, J Mort, P Mullineaux, A Ogilvie and J Rainsbury

Abstain: Councillors Lomax, Martin (non-voting) and Wharton Hardman

That the minutes of the last meeting held Wednesday, 6 April 2022 of Licensing and Public Safety Committee be approved as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

4 Licensing Annual Report 2021/2022

The Licensing Manager presented a report of the Director of Planning and Development that gave an update on the annual performance of the Licensing Service. The report sought to identify the work undertaken over the last twelve months during an unprecedented period with COVID lockdowns. The Licensing Manager explained the report covered the following areas: Hackney Carriage/Private Hire/ Licensed Operators, Licensing Act 2003 (Liquor), Gambling and Scrap Metal.

The Licensing Manager outlined the report and referred to key successes of the service such as:

- Licensing Officers worked as part of a multi operation enforcement activity in April 2022 led by South Ribble Police in partnership with the Road Safety Team, DVSA and MP Katherine Fletcher. 32 vehicles were stopped. 5 vehicles were handed fines, 2 received delayed prohibitions, 1 immediate prohibition notice, 3 delivery drivers with no business insurance, 1 vehicle with an out of date MOT and 1 taxi overloaded with people.
- Officers and Members had liaised successfully with the trade through the Taxi Trade Forum after receiving a written request for a fare increase. Members acknowledged the difficulty drivers faced and agreed an increase to Taxi Tariffs.
- A significant number of policies had been reviewed and implemented.
- In March 2022 Officers conducted a joint enforcement exercise with the immigration service, visiting licenced premises in South Ribble, targeting premises following intel that the business may be employing illegal workers. During the evening, four premises were inspected resulting in the following: 1 arrest of an illegal worker, 3 licensing offences found within the premises, 1 licence holder sleeping in the business (referred to fire service) and 1 premises operating with new owners.

Members thanked Officers for a comprehensive report and congratulated the service on the work they had undertaken.

In response to a member enquiry, the Licensing Manager confirmed that a whistleblowing policy had been established within the DfT Statutory Standards, provision was in place for drivers to whistle blow without any repercussions.

Members asked for more information on how many complaints officers received from members of the public regarding licenced drivers. The Licensing Manager advised he would provide this information outside of the meeting.

Members asked if it was possible to attend enforcement operations with Officers, the Licensing Manager agreed that it was possible and asked any interested members to get in touch to arrange.

Members asked how the authority was faring with disabled vehicles, in response the Licensing Manager explained that once the cap of 100 Saloon Hackney Carriages had been met only wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) would be granted new Hackney Carriage licences. The Council has a duty under S 167 of the Equalities Act to publish a list of WAV's and this could be found on the website. There was around 67 WAV in South Ribble, however the list includes some vehicles which are registered to an operator who solely does school contract work. The number of WAV would be monitored.

In response to a member enquiry, the Licensing Manager explained that a review of the CCTV policy was included in the service's business plan for the next twelve months. The current policy allowed drivers to have an approved CCTV system, but it

was not mandatory. Officers would need to contact the Information Commissioners Office (ICO) for guidance and would review the policy, before bringing back to Committee in September.

Members asked for more information on spiking levels in South Ribble. The Licensing Manager explained the data was held by the Police. However, in December there was only one incident within South Ribble.

Resolved: (Unanimously)

That the report be noted.

Chair

Date