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| **REPORT TO** | **ON** |
| **General Licensing Committee** | **12 March 2018** |
|  |
| **TITLE** | **REPORT OF** |
| **Taxi Licensing Activity** | Interim Monitoring Officer / Assistant Director of Legal Services  |

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| --- | --- |
| Is this report confidential? | **No** |

1. **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

This report provides information to members on Licensing Activity, including applications received, enforcement checks and referrals to partner agencies

1. **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Excellence and Financial Sustainability | x |
| Health and Wellbeing |  |
| Place |  |

Projects relating to People in the Corporate Plan:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| People  |  |

1. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 That Members note the progress made by the Licensing Service for the months of November 2018, December 2018, January 2019 and February 2019

**4. BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

**E+W**

4.1 Monthly updates on service delivery have been a regular item on the General Licensing Committee Agenda and include in table format the activity carried out by the Licensing Service.

4.3 Hackney Carriage Driver 1 refused a licence due to previous convictions. The driver is currently appealing the decision which is due to be in heard on the 15th March 2019.

Hackney Carriage Driver 2 was suspended from driving due to the accumulation of 9 penalty points accrued in 6 months, the policy states at paragraph 5.1;

*When determining an application or reviewing an existing licence the Council have the following options;*

1. *Approve the application or take no further action*
2. *Refuse the application/revoke the licence/suspend the licence*
3. *Issue a warning*
4. *For existing drivers who have accumulated 9 or more points on their, their drivers licence will normally be suspended until the driver has successfully undertaken a driving test to DVSA standards. Such test will be at the licence holder’s expense.*

4.4 Hackney Carriage Driver 3 appeared before a Panel to account a serious complaint of an inappropriate nature. The matter was referred in by a taxi company who dismissed the driver then went onto to provide excellent assistance to the Authority which proved to be valuable when challenging the drivers account. A decision was made to revoke the licence with immediate effect.

4.5 Private Hire Driver 4 was granted a licence at a Panel hearing in September 2018. Recent offending history came to light in February 2018, and an immediate revocation of the licence occurred utilising Standing Order 38.

4.6 Plying for Operation carried out on the 19th January 2019, 3 South Ribble vehicles passed, 1 failed. Preston vehicles were also approached in the Penwortham area, all of which were attending advance bookings. 1 South Ribble vehicle accepted a hiring in contravention of its licence. The driver later admitted the offence on interview and a file has been submitted for the consideration of prosecution for insurance offence and plying for hire without a licence.

4.7 1 prohibition notice issued in the last period for an illegal front tyre with exposed cords.

**5. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT AND OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION**

N/A

**6. Financial implications**

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

**8. COMMENTS OF THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER**

**8.1 This report relates to Licensing activity carried out within existing resources and therefore there are no direct financial implications.**

**9. COMMENTS OF THE MONITORING OFFICER**

All drivers were notified of their right to appeal the Authority’s decision to the Magistrates Court.

**10. OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

|  |  |
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| * **HR & Organisational Development**
* **ICT / Technology**
* **Property & Asset Management**
* **Risk**
* **Equality & Diversity**
 | NoneNoneNoneWe must continue to improve further the quality of the service. We must do everything possible to protect the general public. A failure to continue to achieve high standards in our Licensing service could result in reputational damage. None |

**11. APPENDICES**

Appendix A - Improvement Plan 2018/19

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| Report Author: | Telephone: | Date: |
| Mark Marshall – Head of Licensing | 01772 625401 | 26th February 2019 |