AGENDA FOR





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To: All Members of Licensing and Safety Committee

Councillors: S Walmsley (Chair), R Brown, N Boroda, S Donnelly, J Grimshaw, K Hussain, G Marsden, G McGill,

I Rizvi, J Rydeheard and M Smith

Dear Member/Colleague

Licensing and Safety Committee

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee which will be held as follows:-

Date:	Thursday, 14 July 2022
Place:	Council Chamber, Bury Town Hall
Time:	7.00 pm
Briefing Facilities:	If Opposition Members and Co-opted Members require briefing on any particular item on the Agenda, the appropriate Director/Senior Officer originating the related report should be contacted.
Notes:	

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Licensing and Safety Panel are asked to consider whether they have an interest in any of the matters on the agenda, and if so, to formally declare that interest.

3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 12)

The minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022 are attached. Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee are asked to consider whether these are a correct record of the meeting, and if so, to formally approve them.

4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Questions are invited from members of the public present at the meeting on any matters for which this Panel is responsible.

Approximately 30 minutes will be set aside for Public Question Time if required.

5 OPERATIONAL REPORT (Pages 13 - 20)

A report from the Executive Director (Operations) is attached.

6 REQUEST FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE (Pages 21 - 28)

A report from the Executive Director (Operations) is attached.

7 A REPORT REQUESTING OFFICER DELEGATIONS (Pages 29 - 34)

A report from the Executive Director (Operations) is attached.

8 URGENT BUSINESS

Any other business, which by reason of special circumstances, the Chair agrees may be considered as a matter of urgency.

9 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To consider passing the appropriate resolution under section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business since it involves the likely disclosure of the exempt information stated.

SUSPENSION / REVOCATION OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (Pages 35 - 54)

A report from the Executive Director (Operations) is attached.

Agenda Item 3

Minutes of: LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 9 June 2022

Present: Councillor S Walmsley (in the Chair)

Councillors N Boroda, S Donnelly, J Grimshaw, G Marsden,

G McGill and J Rydeheard

Also in attendance: Councillors R Brown, K Hussain & I Rizvi

M Bridge- Licensing Unit Manager
M Cunliffe – Democratic Services
B Thomson- Head of Public Protection

J Witkowski - Council Solicitor

Public Attendance: 6 members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M Smith

LSP.1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor M Smith.

LSP.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Rydeheard declared an interest that in his employment he had worked on a number of cases involving both Private Hire and Hackney Carriage drivers.

LSP.3 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Delegated decision:

That the Minutes of the last meeting held on the 20th April 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

LSP.4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members of the public were in attendance at the meeting although no questions had been pre submitted or were verbally asked at the meeting.

LSP.5 OPERATIONAL REPORT

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report advising Members on operational issues within the Licensing Service.

The report set out updates in respect of the following issues:

The Licensing Service had dealt with a number of compliance and enforcement matters between the 4th April and the 15th May 2022.

SECURITY OF LICENCES

The Licensing Service were seeking a prosecution of a driver who produced a

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Licensing and Safety Committee, 9 June 2022

Fraudulent Private Hire Drivers Licence to his Private Hire Operator in order that he could continue working. As a consequence of this investigation holograms are now to be added to all licences as an extra security measure.

Operators have been informed to check for this when a licence is produced to them and have been informed to always ask for the original and not a copy/photocopy of official documentation.

AMENDMENT OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONDITIONS

Stage 2 Minimum Licensing Standards was approved at full Council on 24th November 2021 and part of this was new conditions for Private Hire Vehicle Licences. All Private Hire Vehicle Licences issued on or after 25th November 2021 are now subject to the new conditions. Bury were the first Licensing Authority in Greater Manchester to implement Stage 2 Common Minimum Licensing Standards. Due to unexpected delays with the implementation of Stage 2 Minimum Licensing Standards across Greater Manchester, details regarding previous signage requirements were omitted from private hire license conditions. This omitted information was detailed in the report attached to the agenda packs listed under condition 5.

A new set of conditions containing the information was sent out to all affected licences on 6th May which replaced the conditions that were previously attached to affected licences. The conditions have been amended for all private hire vehicle licences being issued going forward. Any new conditions related to vehicle signage will be brought before the Licensing & Safety Committee and included in the report on new vehicle livery and signage as specified in the Stage 2 Minimum Licensing Standards report.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Licensing Enforcement Officers worked alongside GMP on the evening of Friday 29 April. Fifteen premises were visited across the borough and checks carried out. Three premises were advised to obtain Challenge 25 signage (signage to advise that ID is needed to purchase alcohol if you appear to be under the age of 25), two premises were advised as they were not displaying the summary of their licence and one takeaway was advised that they were not permitted to open past 11.00pm and must obtain a licence if they wished to do so.

FEE INCREASE

6=Under Section 70(3) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 notice was given on 14 April 2022 of the proposal to increase the current fees charged in respect of licences for Hackney Carriage Vehicles, Private Hire Vehicles and Private Hire Operators. The 28 day objection period for this ended on 12 May 2022 and no objections were received. Therefore the new fees to be implemented are as below.

Vehicles under 3 years old £238.00 (£182.00 plus £56.00) Vehicles over 3 years old £294.00 (£182.00 plus £112.00)

Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (1 Year) £288.00
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (1 Year) £410.00
Private Hire Operators 1-2 vehicles (5 Year) £1401.00
Private Hire Operators 3 or more vehicles (5 Year) £1955.00

A member enquired when a review into the new design of licenses which included holograms would be conducted and it was stated by the Licensing Unit Manager that an update report would be produced for a future meeting in relation to badges.

Another question raised from the report was what work with the taxi trade had been undertaken in relation to concerns of vehicle livery on a local level. The Head of Public Protection reported that the trade liaison meetings started again in April with another taking place mid-June with attendance by GMP. Standing items of concern would be on the agenda and a further report on this matter would be produced in the future for this committee.

Whilst it had been reported that no objections had been received in relation to fee increases a Member asked had an assessment been undertaken on the numbers of taxi licences as there had been a decrease of Hackney Carriage vehicles in recent years. Another Member asked what the justification was for the increased figure. Upon request by the Chair, the Licensing Unit Manager would circulate the data to the Committee regarding the number of vehicles/licenses for Bury and added that the fees are for running the application process and testing procedures.

It was agreed:

That the report be noted.

LSP.6 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was reported at the meeting.

LSP.7 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Delegated decision:

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business since it involved the likely disclosure of information relating to individuals who hold Licences granted by the Authority or Applicants for Licences provided by the Authority.

LSP.8 APPLICATION TO GRANT A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE CONTRARY TO CURRENT POLICY

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report relating to an application for the grant of a private hire vehicle licence contrary to current Council policy.

The Applicant and a family member who acted as his representative, attended the meeting.

The Chair made introductions and the Council Solicitor outlined the procedure to be followed and clarified that all those present had read the report. The report, which was accepted by the Applicant and presented by the Licensing Unit Manager, set out the reasons the application had been brought before the Committee.

The Licensing Unit Manager reported that the Common Minimum Licensing Standards for Vehicles had been agreed and adopted by the Council in November 2021. This included a requirement in relation to vehicle standards regarding the age of vehicles, namely that for private hire vehicles, only those under 5 years of age were to be allowed onto the fleet and vehicles would not be allowed to remain on the fleet from 10 years of age.

The Licensing Unit Manager went on to explain that following the introduction of this standard the Licensing Service sent an email to all licence holders on

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the 3rd December 2021 informing them of the new changes that had been implemented and giving the link to the Council's website to enable licence holders to view the changes.

On 1st April 2022, the Licensing Service received an email from the Applicant advising that he had tried to complete an online application to licence a private hire vehicle but had not been able to. Enquiries of the Applicant revealed that the vehicle had been involved in an accident in November 2021 and as a result, its licence had been suspended by a Licensing Enforcement Officer on 30 November 2021 following severe damage to the front and rear offside doors, front off side wheel arch and rear off side door sill. The vehicle had previously been licensed by the Applicant from 9 November 2017, but it had expired on 8 February 2022 and a renewal application had not been made.

The Applicant stated that the vehicle had been repaired and was ready for use on 23 March 2022. However as he was unable to apply for a new licence on line he stated he had tried to telephone the Licensing Service on 25th and 28th March but there was no answer. He did state that he had left a voicemail but the Service advised there was no record of this. He then stated that he had managed to speak to an advisor on 29th March and received the link to apply on 30th March. On 1st April he then tried to apply but due to the vehicle being over 5 years old at that time, a new application could not be made as the online application system is set to automatically reject any application that does not meet the age policy. At that date, it was over 5 years old as its date of registration is 31 March 2017.

The Applicant explained to the Committee that he had no knowledge of the new standards policy relating to the age of a vehicle and the reasons for delays were in relation to receiving insurance money to repair the vehicle. He also stated that the repairs to the vehicle had taken some time, that the vehicle was in good condition, had a valid MOT and that the vehicle was only 8 hours outside the age policy. It was admitted that the Applicant had not read the original suspension notice which required works to be completed within 2 months or the licence would be revoked. It was also accepted that the email address used by the Licensing Service for the Applicant was correct and that the Applicant had not spoken to the Licensing Service about the delay in the repairs to the vehicle being undertaken.

Members were provided with clarity from the Licensing Unit Manager that the vehicle had an MOT but had not been through the Council's compliance checks in relation to his application for the grant of a hackney carriage licence

Delegated decision:

The Committee carefully considered the report, and oral representations by the Applicant and his representative and after giving due consideration to the application the Committee resolved, **to refuse to grant** the vehicle licence application.

The reasons for the Committee's decision were as follows:

- The application was contrary to Council policy of Common Minimum licensing standards.
- The standards had been implemented in order to ensure public safety at all times and that vehicles on the fleet where of a high standard.
- The Applicant had let his licence expire and had made no effort to keep the Licensing Service informed from the time of the accident in November 2021 to the end of March 2022.

- It was the Applicants responsibility to comply with the requisite standards, ensure all
 communications from the Licensing Service were read, noted and adhered to and he
 had failed to do so.
- The alleged attempts to contact the Licensing Service could not be validated.
- The Committee did not accept the explanations made by the Applicant and his representative.
- The private hire vehicle licence had lapsed due to the vehicle not being repaired within two months of the suspension notice.

LSP.9 SUSPENSION / REVOCATION OF PUBLIC / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCES

Licence Holder 1/2022

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report relating to Licence Holder 1/2022 who was in attendance at the meeting. The Chair made introductions and the Council Solicitor outlined the procedure to be followed and clarified that all those present had read the report. The report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder and presented by the Licensing Manager, set out the reasons for the Licence Holder being before the Committee.

The report stated that the Licence Holder had held a private hire driver's licence continually since 29 October 2009 until its expiry on the 14 April 2022. He submitted an application to renew his private hire drivers' licence on the 12 February 2022. As part of the application the applicants are asked if they have any traffic offences as these must be declared irrespective of when they occurred. The Licence Holder selected 'no' when asked "Do you have any convictions, fines or formal cautions?" and then selected 'yes' when asked "Have you been issued with any fixed Penalty notices and stated '3 points for speeding fine 38 mph'. A subsequent check of the applicants DVLA licence revealed a conviction for speeding on 21 November 2021 for which the Licence Holder received 3 penalty points and a fine of £100.

The Licensing Service has no record of this offence. Consequently, it has not been declared within the correct time frame as stipulated in the private hire drivers licence conditions.

The Licence Holder would also have received an email sent to all licensed drivers by the Licensing Unit Manager on 27th May 2021 reminding them of the conditions attached warning them of the need to declare all motoring convictions and fixed penalty notices in a timely manner.

When contacted by the Licensing Enforcement Officer for an explanation, the Licence Holder explained that he had been in the trade for over 30 years both as a driver and Operator and accepted that he should have known to disclose the offence. He stated he was very sorry for his oversight and would be aware of the requirement in the future. When asked about the email that was sent out in May 2021, he did not recall reading or receiving it.

The Licence Holder apologised to the Committee and explained he must have disregarded the email sent in May 2021 and it was an oversight on his part and the matter would not be repeated again. He confirmed he had been in the business for 39 years and was sole guardian for his daughter.

The Licence Unit Manager asked if the Licence Holder had read the conditions printed on his licence and he stated that he had not read them recently but going forward would refresh himself with them.

The Licence Holder also submitted a letter of support from a taxi operator he undertakes school contract work for, confirming there have been no complaints or concerns regarding the Licence Holder and that his work was of a high standard. He also provided information in relation to being a sole guardian for his child and evidence of qualifications and certificates relevant to his work such as safeguarding. All of this information was read out by the Chair of the Committee to Members.

Delegated decision:

The Committee carefully considered the report, oral representations by the Licence Holder and the additional information supplied. The Committee noted and accepted the explanation provided and the remorse shown for the error. The Committee reminded the Licence holder to read all the licensing conditions.

Taking into account the Council's Conviction Policy and Guidelines and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee resolved **to admonish the licensee** as to future conduct.

Licence Holder 2/2022

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report relating to Licence Holder 2/2022 who was in attendance at the meeting alongside his representative Mr Ahmed. The Chair made introductions and the Council Solicitor outlined the procedure to be followed and clarified that all those present had read the report. The report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder and presented by the Licensing Manager, set out the reasons for the Licence Holder being before the Committee.

The report stated that the Licence Holder had held a private hire driver's licence continually since 20 June 2013 until its expiry on the 15 May 2022. It has subsequently been extended without prejudice until the date of this committee hearing. This Licence Holder had submitted an application to renew his private hire drivers' licence on 5 April 2022. As part of the application traffic offences must be declared irrespective of when they occurred. In this case the Licence Holder selected 'no' when asked "Do you have any convictions, fines or formal cautions?" and then selected 'yes' when asked "Have you been issued with any fixed Penalty notices and stated '6 points'. A subsequent check of the applicants DVLA licence revealed that the Licence Holder had received a conviction for speeding on a motorway on 27th August 2020 for which he received 6 penalty points and a fine of £200.

The licensing service has no record of this offence. Consequently, it has not been declared within the correct time frame as stipulated in the private hire drivers licence conditions.

The Licence Holder would also have received an email sent to all licensed drivers by the Licensing Unit Manager on 27th May 2021 reminding them of the conditions attached warning them of the need to declare all motoring convictions and fixed penalty notices in a timely manner.

When contacted by the Licensing Enforcement Officer for an explanation, the Licence Holder explained that he was speeding on the motorway as he was rushing to get home. He accepted that he made a silly mistake but stated that he did not know that speeding offences had to be disclosed immediately and he told the service as soon as he realised he needed to. He has apologised and will be aware going forward. When asked about the email that was sent out in May 2021 the client does not recall reading or receiving it.

The Licence Holder's representative apologised to the Committee on his behalf and explained he was a single parent of 3 children and the income provider for his family. It was explained

that due to Covid there was a long delay period in receiving the penalty points and this added to him forgetting to inform the Council of the offence. He went on to add that the Licence Holder was of previous good character an that this was an error and misjudgement on his part. He was very sorry and no disrespect was intended.

The Licence Unit Manager asked if he had read the conditions printed on his licence and he answered yes but the delay in receiving the points had made him forget and it was a genuine mistake and would not happen again,

Delegated decision:

The Committee carefully considered the report, and oral representations by the Licence Holder and his representative. The Committee noted accepted the reasons provided and the remorse shown for the error. The Committee reminded the Licence holder of their responsibility to read all the licensing conditions and any email communications sent from the Council.

Taking into account the Council's Conviction Policy and Guidelines and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee resolved **to admonish the licensee** as to future conduct.

Licence Holder 3/2022

The Executive Director (Operations) submitted a report relating to Licence Holder 3/2022 who was in attendance at the meeting alongside his representative Mr Ahmed. The Chair made introductions and the Council Solicitor outlined the procedure to be followed and clarified that all those present had read the report. The report, which was accepted by the Licence Holder and presented by the Licensing Manager, set out the reasons for the Licence Holder being before the Committee.

The report stated that the Licence Holder had held a private hire driver's licence continually since 16 September 2010 until its expiry on the 7 April 2022. The Licence Holder submitted an application to renew his private hire drivers' licence on the 21 March 2022. As part of the application the Licence Holder selected 'no' when asked "Do you have any convictions, fines or formal cautions?" and then selected 'yes' when asked "Have you been issued with any fixed Penalty notices. He then went on to declare 3 convictions for speeding on 18th May 2018, 28th August 2021 and 21st January 2022 for which the Licence Holder received 3 penalty points on each occasion and a fine of £100 on the last two occasions.

A subsequent check of this applicants DVLA driving licence confirmed these offences. The licensing Service had previously been told about the expired offence from May 2018, but has no record of the two most recent offences. Consequently, they have not been declared within the correct time frame as stipulated in the private hire drivers licence conditions.

The Licence Holder would also have received an email sent to all licensed drivers by the Licensing Unit Manager on 27th May 2021 reminding them of the conditions attached warning them of the need to declare all motoring convictions and fixed penalty notices in a timely manner.

When contacted by the Licensing Enforcement Officer for an explanation, the Licence Holder explained that on one occasion he had been caught by a fixed camera on Hilton Lane, Prestwich and on the other occasion he was caught by a mobile speed camera van on Manchester Street, Oldham. He was unaware of the requirement to declare speeding offences and thought it was sufficient to notify the Licensing Service at the time of his renewal. When asked about the email that was sent out in May 2021 he did not recall reading or receiving it. He has apologised and will be aware of the requirement in the future.

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The Licence Holder's representative apologised to the Committee on his behalf and explained he was the main income provider for his family. It was commented that this was his sole job and it was an oversight on his behalf in thinking he only needed to disclose the offences upon renewal of his licence. He stated that the Licence Holder now appreciates this is incorrect. He again apologised and stated that no disrespect was intended.

The Licence Unit Manager asked if he had read the conditions printed on his licence and he answered his reading of English was not the best but he understood the conditions.

Delegated decision:

The Committee carefully considered the report, and oral representations by the Licence Holder and his representative. The Committee noted accepted the reasons provided and the remorse shown for the error. The Committee reminded the Licence holder of their responsibility to read all the licensing conditions and any email communications sent from the Council.

Taking into account the Council's Conviction Policy and Guidelines and in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee resolved **to admonish the licensee** as to future conduct and highlight the number of previous offences.

COUNCILLOR S WALMSLEY Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7.00pm and ended at 8.45pm)



Classification	Item No.
Open/Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing & Safety Committee
Meeting date:	14 July 2022
Title of report:	Operational Report
Report by:	Executive Director (Operations)
Decision Type:	N/A Report for information only
Ward(s) to which report relates	N/A

Executive Summary: A report to advise members on operational issues within the Licensing service.

Recommendation(s)

That the report be noted.

Key considerations

Not applicable

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Equality Impact and considerations:

24. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 25. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
None	
Consultation:	
Legal Implications:	
Not Applicable	
Financial Implications:	
Not Applicable	

Report Author and Contact Details:

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Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
None	

1.0 **BACKGROUND**

1.1 The report advises Members on operational issues within the Licensing service.

2.0 **COMPLIANCE/ENFORCEMENT**

2.1 The Licensing Service have dealt with the following compliance and enforcement matters for the following periods

2.2 **16-22 May**

Clients

Complaint 2

Enforcement 1

Operator

Complaint 1

Enforcement 2

Premises

Advice 2

Complaint 3

Compliance 1

Enforcement 3

Multi agency 1

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Vehicle

Client

Enforcement 15

Enforcement 35

23-29 May (inc Op Avro)

Premises Enforcement 14 Compliance 2 Intel 1 **Vehicle** Enforcement 42 30 May - 5 June **Clients** Complaint 3 Enforcement 6 **Premises** Intelligence 1 **Vehicle** Complaint 2 Compliance 4 Enforcement 13 6-12 June Client Compliance 6 Enforcement 6 **Premises** Advice 1 Compliant 2 Compliance 8 Enforcement 1

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Intel 2
Vehicle

Client

Enforcement 6

13 - 19 June

Complaint 2
Enforcement 1
Premises
Compliance 2
Enforcement 1
Complaint 1
Vehicle
Compliance 1
Enforcement 14
20 - 26 June 2022
Client
Complaint 2
Enforcement 1
Premises
Compliance 15
Enforcement 10
Vehicle
Complaint 2
Compliance 4
Enforcement 9
27 – 3 July 2022
Client
Complaint 5
Compliance 1
Enforcement 5

Premises

Compliance 5

Enforcement 10

Advice 2

Vehicles

Compliance 9

Enforcement 12

3.0 **PARKLIFE**

- 3.1 Officers from the Public Protection Service worked during the weekend of the Parklife concert that took place on the weekend of the 11th and 12th June 2022. Officers dealt with matters relating to:
 - Unlicensed Taxi's
 - Illegal Street Trading
 - Pedlars
 - Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade enforcement
 - Assistance of residents surrounding the event relating to taxis, noise and street trading
 - Visited and checked all licensed premises in the vicinity of the event for compliance including off licences.
 - Intelligence gathering on the event and reported matters to the Community Impact team.
 - Officers were accompanied by Councillors O'Brien, Quinn and Gold during parts of the event.

3.2 BURY HACKNEY ASSOCIATION

Correspondence of Thanks received following Park Life.

Bury Hackney Association like to say thank you for your arrangements to facilitate taxi rank for Bury Hackney carriage taxis during events time,

Our members are very happy with our officers from licencing department, they work hard and well organised and facilitate our taxis manage to approaching taxi rank trouble free.

Our all members feel secure and happy with the services provided by your department.

On behalf of my members and association I appreciate your support and like to say thank you, please pass my complements to officers who provided excellent service during events to our customers and drivers safety, especially Laura and Alex done great job and we appreciated.

3.3 CORRESPONDANCE OF THANKS

The Public Protection Service have received correspondence from Councillors and the organisers of the event, thanking the service for the work that they had undertaken.

4.0 TRADE LIAISON MEETING

- 4.1 On the 16th June 2022, a joint trade liaison meeting (Licensing/Police and the Hackney carriage and Private hire trade) took place. Discussions took place on a number of issues relating to:
 - Reporting of any incidents to Greater Manchester Police
 - Praise was given for the work carried out by the Police, Licensing Officers and other officers of the Council.
 - Application submission times can apply up to 8 weeks in advance
 - Driver Safety Initiative
 - Update on EV Charge Points Clean Air
 - Wheelchair Accessible vehicles Fiat Freedom/Peugeot Premier.
 - Common Minimum Licensing Standards
 - Compliance Test Certification

The Licensing Service are in the process of developing a webpage on the Council's Website to enable the minutes of the trade liaison meetings can be published to enable all the hackney carriage and private hire trade to view the minutes

5.0 IMMEDIATE REVOCATION OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER

5.1 The Licensing Service have recently received a complaint regarding a Private Hire Driver. Due to the nature of the information received, the Licensing Service in conjunction with the Head of Public Protection and Chair of this Committee considered the information and through the Council's scheme of delegation on the 23 June 2022 revoked a licensed private hire driver's licence with immediate effect under the powers of the Road Safety Act 2006 in the interests of public safety.

6.0 ENGAGEMENT WITH HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE TRADE

6.1 Following the recent request from the Licensing and Safety Committee to remind all drivers regarding the declaring of convictions/fixed penalties, the Licensing Service sent the following information on the 1 July 2020 to all licensed drivers, operators and Trade representatives:

The Licensing Service would like to inform you of issues that are currently being implemented and to remind drivers of their responsibilities:

Trade Liaison meetings

Recently a joint Trade Liaison meeting has been set up with the Licensing Service, Greater Manchester Police and the representatives from the Hackney Carriage and Private hire Trade. Councillor Morris (Executive Member for Licensing) and Councillor Walmsley (Chairperson of the Licensing and Safety Committee are also in attendance.

A new term of reference has been agreed between all parties concerned. The Licensing Service are currently waiting for a webpage to be developed to enable all the licensed trade in Bury to view the minutes of these meetings that have taken place. As soon as the new webpage is available to the public, a further email will be sent to you.

Notification of convictions/motoring convictions/fixed penalty notices

Further to our email of the 27 May 2021, The Licensing Service have been requested by the Licensing and Safety Committee to remind all drivers, operators again of their obligations in respect of the licences that you hold.

As a licensed hackney carriage /private hire driver within Bury, there is a condition on your licence to declare convictions/fixed penalties that you may incur whilst driving your licensed vehicle or any other vehicle.

The main issue that we are experiencing is that licensed hackney carriage /private hire drivers are not notifying the Council's Licensing Service within the required timeframe of any convictions/motoring offences/fixed penalty notices which may result in an appearance before the Licensing and Safety Committee and could have implications on your hackney carriage and/or private hire driver's licence.

As a licensed driver in Bury you are required to comply with the conditions of your drivers/vehicle licence conditions which are included on the licence when it is issued to you. Therefore, please ensure that you read and understand the conditions.

7.0 TAXI DRIVER SAFETY INITIATIVE

7.1 The Licensing Service have contacted all licensed hackney carriage and private hire drivers to inform them of a six-week consultation (28 June until 9 August 2022) relating to a boroughwide (Licensed) Driver Safety Initiative.

The consultation is being carried out to provide Licensed Drivers in Bury the opportunity to contribute their views and opinions on their own safety as a licensed driver in Bury.

All responses obtained through the consultation will be used to contribute to the development and implementation of this new safety initiative.

Licensed Drivers in Bury have been encouraged to take part in the consultation to ensure their concerns are addressed and appropriate crime reduction advice, guidance and control measures are included and considered.



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	14 July 2022
Title of report:	Request from the Hackney Carriage Association to request a review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table
Report by:	Executive Director (Operations)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

The report relates to a request from the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association to review the Hackney Carriage Fare Table

Recommendation(s)

Introduction

This report relates to a request from the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association to request a review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table.

Options & Recommended Options

Members are requested to consider:-

- To approve the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table and if no objections are received during the review implement the request.
- To approve the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table and if objections are received, a further report will be considered by the Licensing and Safety Panel.
- To reject the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table

Key considerations

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Panel by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the Public Domain.

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Not applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010, there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Possible drop in members of the public using hackney carriage and private hire vehicles	Press Notice placed in a local newspaper to allow people to object to the proposed increase.

Consultation:

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a district Council to fix the rates or fares within the local authority for Hackney Carriage Vehicles by the production of a table of fares.

The Act requires the council to advertise a notice in a local newspaper for 14 days any proposal to change Hackney Carriage fares and the production of a table of fares to allow any objections to be madeNot applicable

Legal Implications:

Under the legislation the Council is required to determine representations. The report is in accordance with the appropriate legislation.

The cost of the licensing function are funded through the fees and charges levied by the Council. There may be additional costs if appeals are lodged with the Magistrates and Crown Courts.

Financial Implications:

There are no specific issues from the report other than potential costs/risks associated with legal appeals

Report Author and Contact Details:

Mr M Bridge Licensing Office 3 Knowsley Place Duke Street Bury

Telephone No: 0161 253 5208

Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk

Background papers:

Request from Bury Hackney Association – Mr K Mahmood

Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.

Term	Meaning
None	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a district Council to fix the rates or fares within the local authority for Hackney Carriage Vehicles by the production of a table of fares.
- 1.2 The Act requires the council to advertise a notice in a local newspaper for 14 days any proposal to change Hackney Carriage fares and the production of a table of fares to allow any objections to be made.
- 1.3 If no objections are received the Table of Fares shall come into effect after the 14-day notice period.
- 1.4 If any objection is received a further date has to be set, not later than 2 months after the first specified date, on which the Table of Fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

2.0 ISSUES

- 2.1 The Licensing Service have received a request from Hackney Carriage Association to increase the Hackney Carriage Fare Table within the Borough of Bury. This was last revised in 2020. The requested is at Appendix 1. They confirm that the percentage, according to our calculations on second mile total figure, comes, 13.11%
- 2.2 The current Fare Table came into operation in 2020 a copy of which is attached at appendix2. The proposed increase is requested due to current fuel prices and inflation. The proposed fare table is attached at appendix 3.

3.0 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the options
 - To approve the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table and if no objections are received during the review implement the request.
 - To approve the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table and if objections are received, a further report will be considered by the Licensing and Safety Committee.
 - To reject the review of the Hackney Carriage Fare Table

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Appendix 1

Email form Hackney Carriage Association received 6 June 2022

Dear Sir,

Due to fuel prices increased we proprietors of Hackney carriage, demand to increase in fares as follows,

First 440 yards,

T1, £ 2.50,

T2, £2.90

T3, £3.80

For the first 1760 yards, (one mile)

T1,£4.30

T2,£5.10

T3,£7.10

For each approximate mile thereafter

T1,£2,60

T2,£3.00

T3,£4.40

Waiting time remains same as before,

Fare guide,

I,Mile, T1, £4.30 T2, £5.10, T3,£7.10

2 " T1, £6.90 T2, £8.10 T3,£11.50

3 " T1, £9.50 T2, £11.10 T3,£15.90

4 " T1, £12.10 T2, £14.10 T3,£20.30

5 " T1, £14.70 T2, £17.10 T3,£24.70

10" T1,£27.70 T2,£32.10 T3,£46.70

Due to fuel prices and inflation we like to request you for approval of the above revised fare prices please.

We looking forward to hear from you .

Kind regards

Email from the Licensing Unit Manager to the Hackney Drivers Association sent 6 June 2022

Mr Hussain,

Thank you for your email, the contents of which are noted.

You will be aware that the members of the Licensing and Safety Committee considered a request to implement a new tariff in July 2020. This was implemented at that time.

Can you please set out the proposal as the current fare structure is on the current fare table including the times you want the tariffs to be in place or confirm that the times are remaining the same. In addition, can you please advise in writing what the percentage increase is going to be.

Can you confirm in writing that all Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors in your association are requesting this increase and that Mr Oakes (Hackney Carriage Drivers Association) is aware of this request as he represents Hackney Carriage vehicle proprietors and drivers in Bury?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Response from Hackney Carriage Association 9 June 2022

Dear Mr Bridge

Thank for your email dated 6thJune2022.

As you want to confirm about structure of fare table, we want same structure of fare, waiting times remains same as present structure of fare table applied.

We request you purposed increased fare Amendment for approval in the same fare structure,

We also confirm all our members aware of revised increased fare, as they requested for increase.

According to our members records we have 37 proprietors and drivers, I don't know about Mr Oak how many members he got, at the present 37 Hackney proprietors and thay all members of our association please.

We also confirm percentage, according to our calculations on second mile total figure, comes, 13.11% approximately

Please feel free to amend accurate figures according to your professional experience.

We looking forward to hear from you

Kind regards

Appendix 2

Current Hackney Carriage Fare Table



TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

(revised July 2020)

FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH	DAYTIME RATE (except Sundays) (TARIFF 1) 6am to 10pm	(TARIFF 2) 10pm to 6am & All day Sunday and Bank Holidays	CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RATE (TARIFF 3) From 8pm on 24 th December to 6am on 27 th December & from 8pm on 31 st December to 6am on 2 nd January
TO HIRE THIS TAXI FOR	£1.90	£2.30	£3.20
THE FIRST 440 yards			
FOR THE FIRST 1760	£3.70	£4.50	£6.50
YARDS (approx 1 mile)			
FOR EACH approx MILE THEREAFTER	£2.40	£2.80	£4.20
WAITING TIME	20p	20p	30p
(Traffic lights etc).	(40 seconds)	(40 seconds)	(60 seconds)
Fare Guide	Approximate to the	Approximate to the	Approximate to the
(excluding any waiting time)	appropriate flag fall	appropriate flag fall	appropriate flag fall
1 mile	£3.70	£4.50	£6.50
2 mile	£6.10	£7.30	£10.70
3 mile	£8.50	£10.10	£14.90
4 mile	£10.90	£12.90	£19.10
5 mile	£13.30	£15.70	£23.30
10 mile	£25.30	£29.70	£44.30

Note 1	Hiring by time: If the Hackney Carriage is hired by time such fare shall be
	agreed with the hirer at the commencement of the journey.

Note 2 Journeys ending outside the district: If no rate of fare is agreed before the commencement of the hiring, no fare greater than that indicated on the taximeter and which shall be in accordance with this fare table shall be charged.

Note 3 Hackney Carriages being used for Private Hire: No Hackney Carriage shall be used under a contract or purported contract for Private Hire Except at a rate not greater than that fixed by this fare table and shall be charges from the point in the district where the hirer commences the journey.

Note 4 Guide dogs/assistance dogs travel for free.

Note 5 You are liable to a £40 charge if you foul the inside of this Taxi.

Note 6 The above are the maximum charges that may be made.

In the event of a complaint, please note the taxi licence number on the window signs / licence plates which start with the letter H.

Please address any complaints to: Licensing, Bury Council, 3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury, BL9 0EJ. Telephone Number 0161 253 5208 or email licensing@bury.gov.uk

Appendix 3

Niete 4

Proposed Hackney Carriage Fare Table



TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

(revised June 2022)

FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME OR A COMBINATION OF BOTH	DAYTIME RATE (except Sundays) (TARIFF 1) 6am to 10pm	(TARIFF 2) 10pm to 6am & All-day Sunday and Bank Holidays	CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR RATE (TARIFF 3) From 8pm on 24 th December to 6am on 27 th December & from 8pm on 31 st December to 6am on 2 nd January
TO HIRE THIS TAXI FOR THE FIRST 440 yards	£2.50	£2.90	£3.80
FOR THE FIRST 1760 YARDS (approx. 1 mile)	£4.30	£5.10	£7.10
FOR EACH approx. MILE THEREAFTER	£2.60	£3.00	£4.40
WAITING TIME	20p	20p	30p
(Traffic lights etc).	(40 seconds)	(40 seconds)	(60 seconds)
Fare Guide	Approximate to the	Approximate to the	Approximate to the
(excluding any waiting time)	appropriate flag fall	appropriate flag fall	appropriate flag fall
1 mile	£4.30	£6.90	£6.50
2 miles	£6.90	£8.10	£11.50
3 miles	£9.50	£11.10	£15.90
4 miles	£12.10	£14.10	£20.30
5 miles	£14.70	£17.10	£24.70
10 miles	£27.70	£32.10	£46.70

Note 1	agreed with the hirer at the commencement of the journey.
Note 2	Journeys ending outside the district: If no rate of fare is agreed before the commencement of the hiring, no fare greater than that indicated on the taximeter, and which shall be in accordance with this fare table shall be charged.
Note 3	Hackney Carriages being used for Private Hire: No Hackney Carriage shall be used under a contract or purported contract for Private Hire Except at a rate not greater than that fixed by this fare table and shall be charges from the point in the district where the hirer commences the journey.

History by times If the Healman Carriage is bired by time and fore shall be

Note 4 Guide dogs/assistance dogs travel for free.

Note 5 You are liable to a £40 charge if you foul the inside of this Taxi.

Note 6 The above are the maximum charges that may be made.

In the event of a complaint, please note the taxi licence number on the window signs / licence plates which start with the letter H.

Please address any complaints to: Licensing, Bury Council, 3 Knowsley Place, Duke Street, Bury, BL9 0EJ. Telephone Number 0161 253 5208 or email licensing@bury.gov.uk



Classification	Item No.
Open / Closed	

Meeting:	Licensing and Safety Committee
Meeting date:	14 July 2022
Title of report:	Officer Delegation
Report by:	Executive Director (Operations)
Decision Type:	Council
Ward(s) to which report relates	All

Executive Summary:

This report requests that the Committee approve further delegation to officers and to amend Council policy contained within the Council's Conviction Guidelines, the circumstances of which are set out within this report

Recommendation(s)

Introduction

This report relates to the processing of Public/Private Hire Driver Licences.

Options & Recommended Options

- 1. To delegate to Licensing Officers the power forthwith to deal with applications where licence holders breach their conditions (including failing to declare offences), byelaws and complaints as currently permitted in line with the conviction guidelines.
- To delegate to Licensing officers the power to suspend indefinitely any existing driver unable to produce a satisfactory medical report within 4 weeks of it becoming due for renewal until such time that a satisfactory medical report is produced;
- 3. to delegate to Licensing Officers the power to refuse any similar licence application made within 12 months of a refusal unless there is a substantial and material change in circumstances.
- 4. To reject any of the delegations outlined above.

Key considerations

This is a Council Function that is delegated to the Licensing and Safety Committee by the Council's Constitution.

This paper is in the Public Domain.

Community impact / Contribution to the Bury 2030 Strategy

Not applicable

Equality Impact and considerations:

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to -

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The public sector equality duty requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

The Licensing Service have considered the Equality Act 2010 and due to each application being dealt with on its own merits there is no positive or negative on any of the protected characteristics

Assessment of Risk:

The following risks apply to the decision:

Risk / opportunity	Mitigation
Not Applicable	

Consultation:	
Not applicable	
Legal Implications:	
and all renewals for hackney carriage ar relevant policy, guidelines criteria or legi	onstitution delegates determination of all new applications and private hire driver and vehicles licences where the islative provisions is not complied with, to the Licensing tes to the Committee the power to suspend and/or revoke
·	e approve further delegation of certain of these powers to set out within this report. This is within the remit of the approval of full Council.
Financial Implications:	
There are no specific issues from the re appeals	port other than potential costs/risks associated with legal
Report Author and Contact Details: Mr M Bridge Licensing Office 3 Knowsley Place Duke Street Bury Telephone No: 0161 253 5208 Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk	
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Mr M Bridge Licensing Office 3 Knowsley Place Duke Street Bury Telephone No: 0161 253 5208 Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk Background papers: Application form	abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.
Mr M Bridge Licensing Office 3 Knowsley Place Duke Street Bury Telephone No: 0161 253 5208 Email: m.bridge@bury.gov.uk Background papers: Application form	abbreviations and acronyms used in this report. Meaning

1.0 Background

1.1 Members are aware that the consideration of driver misdemeanours and new applications form a large percentage of the business brought before Panel. The Local Government

(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 at section 51 (1) provides that in respect of private hire drivers:-

A district council shall not grant a licence to drive a private hire vehicle:

a) unless they are satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to hold a driver licence.

and similarly, Section 59 (1) provides that in respect of Hackney Carriage drivers: A district Council shall not grant a licence to drive a hackney carriage:

a) unless they are satisfied that the applicant is fit and proper to hold a driver licence.

2.0 PROPOSALS

2.1 Alterations to the scheme of delegation between Committee and Officers

At present, the Council Constitution requires that the Licensing and Safety Committee determines driver, vehicle and operator licences applications where the applicants do not comply with the relevant criteria or where there are grounds for refusal. Grounds for refusal are often related to a driver's criminal record. Officers in the Council's Licensing Service have delegated authority to grant applications for private hire driver and operator licences and hackney carriage driver licences where the applicant meets all the criteria of the application process and there are no grounds for refusal on the fit and proper person test. In using those powers officers utilise the convictions policy and guidelines when determining whether or not an applicant meets the criteria with respect to convictions.

- 2.2 It follows that if there are grounds for refusal the application has to be considered at Committee no matter how unlikely to be granted or how often a repeat application is made. Accepting that each case must be assessed on its own merits this report seeks to identify those applications that could be dealt with other than at Committee, leaving Members to determine those matters which are more finely balanced.
- 2.3 Members will be aware of the Council's current Conviction Guidelines Policy which were last reviewed in December 2014. The current conviction guidelines state the following in respect of:-

Breach of Conditions, Bye-laws and complaints

Any breach of conditions, breach of bye-laws or complaint relating to a licence holders conduct may be referred to the Panel. A licence holder brought before the Panel will be dealt with by no further action, a formal warning, period of suspension or revocation.

Guidance

Licence holders will be brought before Panel in situations where it is clear that the holder's behaviour is not influenced by verbal or written warnings administered by Licensing Officers. Any licence holder who receives a third warning [verbal or written] in respect of a breach or complaint occurring within a 12 month period [calculated by reference to the date of the breach/complaint] will be brought before the Panel.

All complaints are investigated. Some investigations and breaches will result in prosecution and in those cases the prosecution outcome will be the deciding factor in the decision to refer to Panel as will other prosecutions and cautions administered by other enforcing agencies.

Where this authority administers a caution to a licence holder this does not preclude a referral to panel for the matter for which the licence holder has been cautioned.

In other cases, an investigation may result in a warning, such warnings will be relevant to the rolling 12 month period.

In certain situations, the breach or complaint may be deemed so serious that an immediate referral to Panel is warranted. In those cases, the reasoning for the decision for the immediate referral will be recorded within the formal report to Panel.

- 2.4 Following the request of this Committee to review how we deal with failing to declare offences, the Licensing Service request members to consider the delegation to licensing Officers the power forthwith to deal with applications where licence holders breach their conditions (including failing to declare offences), byelaws and complaints as currently permitted in line with the conviction guidelines as currently permitted in line with the conviction guidelines.
- 2.5 This will enable the Licensing Service to deal with breaches of all conditions as outlined at section 2.3 of this report unless the guidelines state otherwise but will give them flexibility to refer any matter to this Committee if the breach or complaint is so serious.
- 2.6 All other proposed suspension/revocation of licensed drivers would continue to be referred to Committee; except those dealt with on immediate public safety grounds through the existing delegation contained in the Council's constitution.
- 2.7 If Members are minded to delegate to Licensing Officers options in this report this report. The Licensing Service can report in the Operational Report on how many warnings for breaches of conditions, byelaws and complaints have been issued.
- 2.8 If Members are minded to agree further officer delegations it is proposed that in circumstances where an applicant meets all the criteria, except those relating to convictions, the Head of Public Protection / Licensing Unit Manger (or other duly authorised officer not below the level of Deputy Licensing Officer) will determine whether or not the application will be granted, refused or referred to the Licensing & Safety Panel subject to the restrictions below.
- 2.9 Additionally, the Licensing Service request that the Committee consider delegation of the following matters to officers
 - to suspend indefinitely any existing driver unable to produce a satisfactory medical report within 4 weeks of it becoming due for renewal until such time that a satisfactory medical report is produced;
 - to refuse any similar licence application made within 12 months of a refusal unless there is a substantial and material change in circumstances.
- 2.10 If Members are minded to agree the further officer delegations outlined in 2.9 above, it is proposed in these particular circumstances, the Head of Public Protection / Licensing Unit Manager (or other duly authorised officer not below the level of Deputy Licensing Officer) will determine whether or not the application be refused or Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence will be suspended until a satisfactory medical is received. Where the driver's licence is suspended or the application is refused the Officer will make and retain a written record of the reasoning for the decision to suspend or refuse this will be regarded as the decision of the Council for the purposes of the statutory requirements. Any suspension or refusal of a licence application will be reported to the Licensing and Safety Committee in the Operational Report.



Agenda Item 10

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

