

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	LICENSING & SAFETY PANEL
DATE:	6TH DECEMBER 2018
SUBJECT:	OPERATIONAL REPORT
REPORT FROM:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)
CONTACT OFFICER:	M BRIDGE
TYPE OF DECISION:	N/A – Report for information only
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/STATUS:	This paper is in the public domain
SUMMARY:	A report to advise members on operational issues within the licensing service.
IMPLICATIONS:	
Wards Affected:	N/A
Scrutiny Interest:	Internal Scrutiny Panel

1.0 BACKGROUND

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

2.0 COMMON MINIMUM STANDARDS – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade

2.1 On the 12th and 22nd November 202, meetings of the Licensing Managers Group took place in respect of Common Minimum Standards. Discussions were about development of conditions for Drivers, Vehicles and Operators and review of the Conviction guidelines across Greater Manchester. A revised timetable will be available in the New Year. Future meetings are scheduled.

3.0 TAXI OPERATIONS

3.1 On the 18th October 2018, Licensing officers took part in an operation inspecting licensed vehicles with Greater Manchester Police. Nine Private Hire vehicles were inspected, issues identified were vehicle signage, use of magnets on signage, tyre worn to the legal limit, drivers not wearing badges and

inappropriate conduct. One Hackney Carriage vehicle had an issue with signage. Some of the issues were either dealt with on the night or resulted in written warnings being issued.

Further operations will be undertaken in due course.

4.0 SCRAP METAL DEALERS

- 4.1 On the 15th October 2018, the Deputy Licensing Officer inspected Scrap Metal Yards in Pimhole with Greater Manchester Police. Whilst undertaking the visits, officers checked that records were being kept and that no cash payments were being made. Three scrap metal yards had all records available to view and one did not have them available as the owner was not present at the time of the visit. Following the visit the owner was written to and has since produced his records for inspection. No other issues were identified.

5.0 MULTI AGENCY PARTNERSHIP VISITS

- 5.1 On the 16th October 2018, the Deputy Licensing Officer took part in a multi-agency day of action. Other Partner Agencies from the Immigration Service, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service Police, Officers from the Housing Standards of the Council and North West Electricity Housing Standards.

6 premises visited of which 2 were licensed premises.

The first licensed premises had 170 cigarettes and 50g HRT which were seized by trading standards officers, alcohol on display (breach of condition), open bottle of vodka and an open box of condoms. The Premises Licence Holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor were not present at the time of the visit. The premises licence holder has been invited for PACE interview.

The second licensed premises had somebody working who had no permission to work in the United Kingdom. As a result of the premise having an unsafe electricity supply this was disconnected and the premises closed. The Premises Licence Holder and the Designated Premises Supervisor were not present at the time of the visit.

Officers are considering the evidence which may result in further enforcement action being taken.

6.0 Safeguarding Training

- 6.1 Members will recall that the Licensing Service brought reports to the Licensing and Safety Panel earlier this year about the revised implementation of safeguarding training for new applicants and existing licence holders. The Council's Procurement section has advised it will be necessary for a tender process to have been conducted. A draft tender document has been provided to procurement and it is expected that the tender will be available and uploaded onto the chest. Subject to satisfactory bids the aim is to implement training before the end of the financial year.

7.0 Medicals – Group 2 standard

- 7.1 The Licensing Service have been contacted by two local medical practitioners regarding concerns about the doctor patient relationship following the

requirement for the doctor to confirm whether or not an applicant/licence holder complies with the Councils policy of Group 2 classification under the DVLA guidance Fitness to drive. After discussions with the Assistant Director for Legal and Democratic Services, it was decided that applicants/ licence holders should medical practitioners not want to consider their patients fitness to driv. An applicant / licence holder was able to utilise the alternative medical company approved by members in September 2017.

8.0 Adjourned consideration of a Driver's licence

- 8.1 Members will recall from the last meeting on the 18th October 2018, a report was listed for consideration of the suspension/revocation of a drivers licence. Following a request from the licence holder (18/2018), members agreed to an adjournment. Since the decision to adjourn, the private hire driver's licence has expired and no application to renew has been received by the Council.

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