

REPORT FOR DECISION

DECISION OF:	LICENSING & SAFETY PANEL
DATE:	5th March 2020
SUBJECT:	OPERATIONAL REPORT
REPORT FROM:	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS)
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 Executive Member/Chair Of Licensing Panel Meeting Event – 28th February 2020

2.1 The Head of Trading Standards & Licensing, Executive Members and Councillor Rafiq attended an event ran by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Transport for Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Licensing Network on the 28th February 2020.

3.0 Purple Flag Assessment

3.1 Bury Council have been successful in gaining the Purple Flag Accreditation for the 5th consecutive year following officers of the licensing team working with other colleagues within the Council to prepare for the external assessment undertaken

by the Association of Town Centre Managers for the Purple Flag accreditation. The external assessment took place on the 16th November 2019.

4.0 Bradley Fold

- 4.1 On the 29th January 2020, the testing of licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles returned to Bradley Fold following the fire in February 2019.

5.0 Immediate Revocation of a Private Hire Drivers/Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence

- 5.1 On the 28th January 2020, the Licensing Service received a complaint from a young female concerned about the conduct of a private hire driver. This driver made a series of inappropriate comments to her, turned off his private hire fare meter and offered her a free ride.

On the 29th January 2020; the licensing service received another complaint from PC Scott of Greater Manchester Police that this driver had been released under investigation for another incident which occurred on 21st January 2020.

On the 29th January 2020; the licensing service received written communication from Rochdale Council that this driver had previously held a Private Hire drivers badge with Rochdale Borough Council before it was revoked in February 2019 following the receipt of allegations similar to those mentioned above. This was not disclosed to Bury Council's Licensing Service.

The Head of Service for Trading Standards and Licensing in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Panel decided to revoke the driver's private hire drivers licence with immediate effect on the grounds of public safety.

6.0 Mandatory Safeguarding Training

- 6.1 Members should be aware that on the 7th March 2019, they considered a report regarding the implementation of mandatory safeguarding training for all new applicants as a pre-requisite prior to application and that existing drivers would be required to undertake the training within 12 months of the implementation date. The approved supplier Personnel Checks have run numerous sessions over the last 12 months. Members agreed that this should be implemented

The mandatory training aims to enable drivers to understand the need to protect vulnerable adults and children, identify possible victims of abuse and exploitation, understand things that could be identified as a risk, understand their own roles and responsibilities in relation to personal safety and identify where they can report any concerns.

During the 12 month period the Licensing Service have been contacting the existing drivers by letter and telephone calls to ensure that they undertake the mandatory training,

Personnel Checks are running a final session on the 17th March 2020 for those drivers who have not undertaken the training.

Once this session has taken place, the Licensing Service will review the licensing database to ascertain who has not undertaken the mandatory safeguarding training, those who are identified will be put before a meeting of the Licensing

and Safety Panel to consideration as to their suitability to hold their Hackney Carriage and/or Private hire Drivers Badge in the future.

7.0 Request from Hackney Carriage Drivers Association

- 7.1 The Licensing Service have received a request from the Hackney Carriage Drivers Association to review the Hackney Carriage Fare Table. This request is currently being progressed through the Council's Governance process.

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