

# Licensing and Safety Committee

Agenda and Reports

For consideration on

Wednesday, 28th February  
2007

In the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley

**At 12.30 pm**





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## Chief Executive's Office

Please ask for: Gordon Banks  
Direct Dial: (01257) 515123  
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Date: 16 February 2007

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**Chief Executive:** Donna Hall

**Chorley**  
Council

Town Hall  
Market Street  
Chorley  
Lancashire  
PR7 1DP

Dear Councillor

## **LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - WEDNESDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2007**

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Wednesday, 28th February 2007 commencing at 12.30 pm.

**Will Members please note that a buffet lunch will be provided at 12 noon.**

### **AGENDA**

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members of the Committee are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the Council Chamber and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 4)**

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 17 January 2007 (enclosed)

4. **Training for Hackney/Private Hire Drivers-Further Report (Pages 5 - 10)**

Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

A representative from Runshaw College will provide Members with a presentation on a proposal to introduce driver training to BTEC standard for all new hackney and private hire drivers.

5. **Drivers Medicals-Proposed Change of Procedure (Pages 11 - 14)**

Report of Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

Continued....

Members will receive a short presentation on the proposal to change the current procedure relating to medicals for hackney carriage and private hire drivers.

6. **Licensing and Registration Licences issued from 23 December 2006 to 31 January 2007 (Pages 15 - 18)**

Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

7. **Licensing Liaison Panel (Pages 19 - 22)**

To receive the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Liaison Panel held on 29 January 2007 (enclosed)

8. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

9. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

10. **Application for Licence to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley (Pages 23 - 28)**

Report of Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

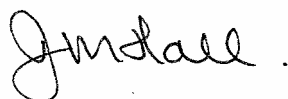
11. **Application for Licence to drive Hackney Carriages/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley (Pages 29 - 30)**

Report of Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

12. **Application to drive Hackney Carriages/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley (Pages 31 - 32)**

Report of Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services (enclosed)

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

**Distribution**

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee (Councillor Mrs Iris Smith (Chair), Councillor Edward Smith (Vice-Chair), Councillors Thomas Bedford, Henry Counce, Magda Cullens, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, Margaret Lees, Marion Lowe, Thomas McGowan, Ralph Snape, John Walker and Mrs Stella Walsh) for attendance

2. Agenda and reports to Claire Hallwood (Deputy Director of Legal Services), Rosaleen Brown (Legal Services), Janet Brereton (Legal Assistant (Licensing and Registration)), Howard Bee (Licensing Manager), Gordon Bankes (Democratic Services Officer) and Keith Ogden (Enforcement Officer) for attendance.

**This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.**

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون

01257 515823

کیجئے:

**Licensing and Safety Committee****Wednesday, 17 January 2007**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs Iris Smith (Chair), Councillor Edward Smith (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Magda Cullens, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, Margaret Lees, Marion Lowe, Ralph Snape, John Walker and Mrs Stella Walsh

**07.LS.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received by Councillors T Bedford, H Caunce and T McGowan.

**07.LS.02 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

Councillor H Khan translated for the Hackney Carriage Driver YD (DOB 01.06.58) but left the meeting during the discussion and voting on the proposal

**07.LS.03 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.**

**07.LS.04 COMPLAINT REGARDING HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER**

(Councillor H Khan translated for the Hackney Carriage Driver Mr YD (DOB 01/06/58) but left the meeting during the discussions and voting on the proposal).

The Committee received a report of the Customer, Democratic and Legal Services bringing Members attention to a complaint that had been made against a Hackney Carriage driver Mr YD (DOB 01/06/58).

Members were being asked to consider the allegations and to determine whether or not he was considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage driver's licence.

The complainant, along with her friend, who was present when the alleged incident took place, attended the meeting to give their representations of the event.

The licensed Hackney Carriage driver, attended the meeting to put forward his explanation, and the Committee carefully considered the representations that he made.

**RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage Driver Mr YD (DOB 01/06/58) be suspended for 28 days on the grounds of any other reasonable cause (Section 61(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. and that such a suspension only to be lifted upon Mr YD (DOB 01/06/58) successfully completing a DSA hackney carriage/private hire assessment.**

**07.LS.05 APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF CHORLEY**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services requesting the Committee to consider an application for a licence to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley.

The report indicated that the applicant's driving licence stated that he had held a full licence since March 2005 and that applicants should be over 21 years of age and have three years driving experience as the holder of a full driving licence.

Enquiries made had revealed that the applicant had no driving convictions on his driving licence and a Criminal Record Bureau check had revealed that there were no previous convictions.

The applicant accompanied by his prospective employer attended the meeting to put forward representations in respect of his application and the Committee carefully considered the representations made.

**RESOLVED – That a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence be granted to Mr PS (DOB 10/09/72)**

**07.LS.06 APPLICATION TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF CHORLEY**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services to consider an application for a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle driver's licence. Information received from the Criminal Records Bureau had revealed information that would need to be assessed by the Committee before determining the application.

The report also indicated that the applicant's driving licence stated that he had held a licence since November 2005 and that applicants should be over 21 years of age and have three years driving experience as the holder of a full driving licence.

The report set out the background to the application and the history behind the incident that resulted in the applicant receiving a conviction.

The applicant attended the meeting to put forward his representations in support of the application and the Committee carefully considered the representation made.

**RESOLVED – That a Hackney Carriage/Private Drivers Licence be granted to Mr ARH (DOB 26/10/82)**

**07.LS.07 INCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED – That the press and public be included for the remainder of the meeting.**

**07.LS.08 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 22 November 2006 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**07.LS.09 LICENSING LIAISON PANEL**

The Committee received the minutes of the Licensing Liaison Panel held on 27 November 2006.

**RESOLVED – That the minutes be noted.**

**07.LS.10 ALLOCATION OF SEVEN ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCES**



The Committee received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services asking Members to approve a selection procedure for the issue of seven additional hackney carriage licences following the criteria that had been amended at the last Committee meeting.

For the interview stage of selection it was suggested that this Committee appointed a smaller Sub-Committee.

**RESOLVED – 1. That a Sub-Committee be appointed and that the Membership be as follows:**

- 1 Disability Forum Representative
- Councillor Mrs I smith
- Councillor E Smith
- Councillor R Snape
- Howard Bee – Licensing Manager
- Keith Odgen – Licensing Enforcement Officer
- Gordon Banks – Democratic Services Officer

**2. That the procedure set out in the report be approved.**

**07.LS.11 LICENSING AND REGISTRATION LICENCES ISSUED FROM 2 NOVEMBER 2006 TO 22 DECEMBER 2006**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services on the various licences and permits issued and the registrations affected by the Licensing Section since the last meeting.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer updated Members on the present situation regarding the vehicle check sheets that Chorley Private Hire had been ordered to complete.

**RESOLVED – That the report be noted.**

Chair

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services	Licensing and Safety Committee	28/02/07

## **TRAINING FOR HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS – FURTHER REPORT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT`**

1. For Members to consider the introduction of vocational training for all new applicants for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences.
2. A report to consider driver training was submitted to this Committee on 7 June 2006. It was recommended that a report be submitted to a future meeting of this committee giving details of other providers of driver training, showing comparisons with other local authorities and costs to the taxi trade.

### **CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

3. This report is relevant to further the key corporate priorities of the Council, ie making a safer Chorley by ensuring as far as practicable that all licensed drivers are fit and proper persons and that they are adequately trained to carry out their duties in particular their duties in conveying disabled people.

### **RISK ISSUES**

4. The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	4	Information	
Reputation	4	Regulatory/Legal	4
Financial	4	Operational	4
People	4	Other	

5. There will be cost involved, members of the trade could ask for a judicial review of any decision made, there are operational considerations with the extra work involved in setting up and running a training scheme and it is important that the overall cost of obtaining a hackney or private hire driver's licence does not have an adverse effect upon the recruitment of new drivers.

### **BACKGROUND**

6. The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee, in its good practice guide 2003, emphasised the need for driver training for taxi drivers in dealing with disabled people.

7. In a speech by the Transport Minister Karen Buck to the National Taxi Association on 25 October, concerning best practice, she stated that driver training is something that is mentioned in a draft best practice note and that in future licensing authorities might stipulate that those applying for their first licences undergo a certain amount of training.
  8. The chairman of the national private hire association has given his support for the need for driver training to a BTEC level and there is clearly a growing impetus for Councils to introduce driver training.
  9. At a regional meeting of the national association of licensing enforcement officers (NALEO) held on 23 June 2005 a presentation was made on a national qualification (the BTEC) which had been introduced and piloted with a great deal of success by Bournemouth District Council. An article also appeared in the Private Hire and Taxi monthly Magazine.
  10. In its best practice guidance (October 2006) the Department for Transport states that there is advantage in encouraging drivers to obtain a nationally recognised vocational qualification for the taxi and private hire trades.
  11. Since the previous committee meeting on 7 June 2006 research has been conducted to find a suitable alternative to the BTEC course at Runshaw. No other suitable training courses are currently available and there are no other authorities in this area requiring applicants to undergo training.
  12. Information has been received from an organisation called Hearfirst who are able to provide training in disabled issues to groups of up to 15 people at a total cost of £780 for one day.
  13. This would involve the Council providing accommodation for the course and also officer's time in arranging course dates for individual applicants.
  14. This option would have the benefit of providing disability training but would fall short of the complete package offered by Runshaw College. The syllabus for the BTEC course offered by Runshaw College is as follows:
    - Customer service for passenger transport
    - Passenger Transport and equal opportunities
    - Passenger Transport and Disability Awareness
    - Taxi and Private Hire Safety
    - Carriage of luggage and parcels
    - Route planning
    - Taxi and Private Hire regulation (London)
    - Taxi and Private Hire regulation (UK)
- The full breakdown of the course is attached to the report
15. Preston City Council has agreed to make the BTEC training, with Runshaw College as the provider, mandatory for all new drivers from 1 April 2007. South Ribble Borough Council is also considering adopting this option.
  16. As outlined in the previous report on this subject the three Councils would prefer adopting a uniform approach to driver licensing in order to prevent applicants choosing any of the three authorities that they believe operates a lower standard.

- 17. Representatives from Preston City Council and Runshaw College will be attending a meeting of South Ribble Borough Council who will be making a decision on training prior to this meeting and these representatives have also been asked to attend this meeting to answer any questions that may arise.
- 18. This Council has required applicants to undergo a knowledge test. This could be incorporated into the BTEC course giving a saving in cost of £20 to the applicant and a saving in officer time.

**COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

- 19. N/A

**COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

- 20. N/A

**RECOMMENDATION (S)**

- 20. That the Committee considers:
  - (i) introducing driver training to BTEC standard as provided by Runshaw College for all new applicants, who must either complete their training before being granted a licence or within a specified time of being granted a licence; and
  - (ii) incorporating this Council's existing knowledge test for new drivers into the BTEC Course in order to reduce the licence fee for new drivers by the knowledge test element which currently stands at £20.

ANDREW DOCHERTY  
 DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

<b>Background Papers</b>			
<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Report re driver training	7 June 2006	-	The loop (Committee Files)

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Keith Ogden/Howard Bee	5163	1 February 2007	ADMINREP/REPORT

## TRANSPORTING PASSENGERS BY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE EDEXCEL LEVEL 2 BTEC AWARD

### Level 2 Vocationally Related Qualification on the National Qualifications Framework QAN-100/3594/1

#### **Unit 1 – Customer Service for Passenger Transport**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Good communication and positive working relationships | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Working relationships</li> </ul>   |
| Good customer service                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The customer</li> <li>• The employee</li> <li>• Good customer service</li> <li>• Benefits of good customer service</li> </ul> |
| Difficult customers and situations                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult situations and customers</li> <li>• Resolving situations</li> <li>• Resolving complaints</li> </ul>                 |

#### **Unit 2 – Passenger Transport and Equal Opportunities**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Legislation                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aims of legislation</li> <li>• Implications</li> <li>• Scope of legislative Acts and Codes of Practice</li> <li>• Sector specific legislation</li> </ul> |
| Discrimination              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition and occurrence</li> <li>• Situations where discrimination occurs</li> </ul>   |
| Duties and responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing a non-discriminatory passenger service</li> <li>• Amendments to service</li> </ul>   |

#### **Unit 3 – Passenger Transport and Disability Awareness**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Disabilities and the barriers they present | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disabilities</li> <li>• Recognising disabilities and impairments</li> <li>• Barriers</li> </ul> |
| Sensitive assistance                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance</li> <li>• Empathy, discreetness and dignity</li> </ul>                              |
| Technology and equipment                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technology and equipment</li> <li>• Types of equipment</li> </ul>                               |

#### **Unit 4 - Taxi and Private Hire Safety**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| Hazards and risks                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hazards and risks</li> <li>• Addressing hazards and risks</li> <li>• Common causes</li> <li>• Passenger emergencies</li> </ul> |
| Consequences of road accidents or emergencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing risks</li> <li>• Procedures</li> </ul>  |
| Vehicles                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle maintenance</li> <li>• Operation</li> </ul>  |

**Unit 5 – Carriage of Luggage and Parcels**

Obligations

Health and Safety

Dangerous goods

- Main obligations
- Lost property
- Safe lifting and carrying
- Operator responsibilities
- Legislation and regulations
- Responsibilities
- Risk assessment

**Unit 6 – Route Planning**

Maps

Interpret maps

Routes and timings

- Types and sources of maps
- Contribution to route planning
- Map symbols
- Topographical detail
- Routes
- Timings
- Communications

**Unit 7 - Taxi and Private Hire Regulation (UK)**

Licensing legislation

Obligations

Regulatory authority requirements

- Types of licence
- Legislation
- Requirements
- Insurance requirements
- Providing a suitable vehicle
- Obligations
- Plying for hire and fares
- Fares meter
- Other operating requirements
- Private Hire operators

**Unit 8 – Taxi and Private Hire Regulation (London)**

Licensing Legislation

Obligations

Regulatory authority requirements

- Types of licence
- Legislation
- Requirements
- Insurance requirements
- Providing a suitable vehicle
- Obligations
- Plying for hire and fares
- Fares meter
- Other operating requirements
- Private Hire operators

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services	Licensing and Safety Committee	28 February 2007

**DRIVERS MEDICALS – PROPOSED CHANGE OF PROCEDURE**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT`**

1. To ask members to consider changing the current requirement for all medicals for hackney carriage and private hire drivers to be conducted by the applicant’s family doctor.

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2. This report does not impact on any of the key priorities of the Council.

**RISK ISSUES**

3. The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	√
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

4. There is a risk that certain medical conditions would not be detected if the applicant made a false statement on his application form.

**BACKGROUND**

5. Section 57 (1) and (2 a i and ii) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the Authority power to require applicants to submit information. This section of the act is as follows:

(1) A District Council may require any applicant for a drivers licence under the Act of 1847 or under this Part of this Act to submit to them such information as they may reasonably consider necessary to enable them to determine whether the licence should be granted and whether conditions should be attached to any such licence.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing subsection -

(a) a district council may require an applicant for a drivers licence in respect of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle -

(i) to produce a certificate signed by a registered medical practitioner to .the effect that he is physically fit to be the driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle; and



- (ii) whether or not such a certificate has been produced, to submit to examination by a registered medical practitioner selected by the district council as to his physical fitness to be the driver of a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle.

6. On 24 April 1996 the authority decided that all applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences within the Borough must obtain medical renewals and medical certificates from his or her family doctor.
7. On 7 June 2000 the authority decided medical certificates must be to group 2 standard. Group 2 is the standard required for bus and lorry driver.
8. When the requirement to use the applicant's family doctor was introduced the cost of medicals was considered reasonable but since that time the cost has escalated.
9. The cost of medicals is frequently raised at licensing forums and it is clear that some medical practitioners are charging fees that are considerable more than when the medical rules were introduced and are causing hardship to some applicants.
10. A low-priced medical firm, Cotswold Medicals (driversmedical.com) is advertising a country wide service for carrying out medicals for taxi drivers (they also carry out medicals for bus and lorry drivers).
11. It is stated in the official newspaper of the National Private Hire Association that this firm "has quickly become established as the UK's biggest provider of medical examinations for DVLA and taxi licences". In addition the firm donates £5 for every examination to charity.
12. It is noted that the DVLA accepts medical examinations by registered medical practitioners and does not specify that the examination must be by the applicant's own doctor. It may be seen to be over cautious for the Council to continue to insist on this requirement, especially when it is not required by the DVLA or the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.
13. The proprietor of the company, Cotswold Medicals, has been invited to address the Committee and answer any questions that may arise.
14. There is no cost attributable to the Council as medicals are arranged by applicants and licensed drivers and the cost is met by them.

#### **COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

15. N/A

#### **COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

16. N/A

**RECOMMENDATION**

- 17. That the Committee considers changing the rules regarding driver’s medicals to allow medical examinations to be conducted by any registered medical practitioner.

ANDREW DOCHERTY  
 DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

There are no background papers to this report.

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Keith Ogden	5163	24/01/07	LEGREP/93946LM

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services	Licensing and Safety Committee	28/02/07

## LICENSING AND REGISTRATION LICENCES ISSUED FROM 23 DECEMBER 2006 TO 31 JANUARY 2007

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To inform the Committee of the various licences and permits issued and the registrations effected since the last Committee.

### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- There are no specific implications for corporate policies arising from this report.

### RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	4
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

This report is for information only.

### SECOND HAND GOODS

- There have been no applications granted for second hand goods licences during this period.

### HACKNEY CARRIAGES, PRIVATE HIRE REGISTRATIONS

- The table below shows the number of licences/registrations issued during this period. Generally, renewal Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Vehicle/Drivers Licences and renewal Private Hire Operators Licences are now issued by the One Stop Shop.

Number of	New	Renewals	Transfers	Vehicle Change
Private Hire Vehicles	0	14	1	1
Private Hire Drivers Licence	6	14	0	0
Private Hire Operator	1	2	0	0
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence	1	9	0	0
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	0	1	0	1

**HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS**

6. There have been no applications granted for House to House Permits during this period.

**STREET COLLECTION PERMITS**

7. There have been three applications granted for Street Collection Permits during this period for the following charities, Uncaged Educational Trust for a collection to be held on 22 September 2007, Galloways Society for the Blind for a collection to be held on 11 August 2007 and Chorley Lions for a collection to be held on 15 December 2007.

**LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS ACT 1976 (AS AMENDED)**

8. There has been 1 new and 23 renewal Lottery permits issued during this period.

**MOTOR SALVAGE OPERATOR**

9. There have been no Motor Salvage Operator Licences issued during this period.

**ENFORCEMENT VISITS FOR PERIOD FROM 23 DECEMBER 2006 TO 31 JANUARY 2007**

10. 13 visits have been made to operators during this period.

**SUSPENSION OF VEHICLES**

11. No vehicle licences have been suspended during this period.

**INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS**

12. 2 complaints have been received during this period. Both complaints have been resolved satisfactorily.

**JOINT OPERATIONS**

13. No joint operations have been conducted during this period.
14. The vehicle check sheets that Chorley Private Hire have been ordered to complete and maintain have continued to be checked and a verbal report will be made to the Committee. Further checks will be made to ensure compliance.

Report compiled 31 January 2007  
Keith Ogden  
Licensing Enforcement Officer

**COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE**

15. Not applicable.

**COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

16. Not applicable.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

17. Members are asked to note the report.

ANDREW DOCHERTY  
 DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMER, DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES

<b>Background Papers</b>			
<b>Document</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>File</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>
Various applications	Various dates	Various files	Licensing Section, Legal Services, Chorley

<b>Report Author</b>	<b>Ext</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Doc ID</b>
Jayne Day	5161	2 February 2007	LEGREP/93989LM

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**LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 29 January 2007**

**PRESENT** Councillor Iris Smith, Councillor Edward Smith, Howard Bee, Janet Brereton, Keith Ogden, Shakail Ahmed, Yaqoob Illahi, Julie and Antony Price, Brian Crompton, Abdul Manan, David Hamer, Peter Verhaege, Mohammed Siddique Ahmed.

**1 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING –**

**Blue Bin Update** – Howard Bee explained that he had spoken to Lancashire County Council regarding the problem with the bins in High Street. There was an issue regarding enforcement and he was waiting to hear further. He understood that the situation had improved slightly in that the bins were now lockable, but a panel member pointed out that they could still be pushed into the road and cause an accident.

**2 ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE PLATES** – Howard Bee informed everyone that the dates had now been set for interviews, namely the 19 and 20 February 2007. Thirty-six people had been invited to interview. The three councillors sitting on the panel would make the decision and there would be no officer involvement in the decision. All questions will be based on the criteria and a scoring system may be used so that the process of selection is transparent and it will be possible to show why an applicant has been successful or unsuccessful.

**3 TAXI RANK/SIGNAGE** – Janet Brereton updated the panel following a meeting with Legal on 9 January 2007. It had been agreed that the signs on the rank should be “No waiting except taxis” and “No stopping except taxis”. This was so that the St Catherine’s Hospice Shop would not be penalised, but the necessary signs and yellow lines should stop members of the public parking on the rank. It had been noted where the double yellow lines needed to be repainted and the Legal Section would be contacting Lancashire County Council requesting the signs and the yellow lines. The Licensing Section will continue to monitor the progress of this. Keith Ogden pointed out that hackney carriage drivers need to be aware that they would not be able to park/leave vehicles unattended on the hackney rank, although toilet breaks are necessary. The Licensing Section would be able to speak to Parkwise on this matter. A panel member pointed out that there is very little signage to point out where the taxi rank is and it was agreed that Howard Bee take this forward to the next Town Centre Working Party.

**4 UPDATE ON DRIVER TRAINING** – Keith Ogden informed everyone that a report would be presented to the Licensing and Safety Committee on Wednesday 28 February 2007 (time to be confirmed) regarding driver training. A representative from Runshaw College would be attending to give a presentation of the BTEC course and a representative from Preston City Council who had been involved in introducing it in Preston. Representatives of the hackney carriage/private hire trade would be able to attend and put forward their views. A copy of the report would be

circulated as soon as possible. A general discussion followed regarding the cost of the training, possible future savings on insurance and raising the profile of drivers.

- 5 DRIVERS' MEDICALS** – Keith Ogden explained that following an article in a recent Private Hire Monthly, he had contacted a medical firm offering medical examinations anywhere in the country at a considerably reduced cost, namely around £40. The DVLA accepted such medicals for PSV and HGV purposes. Keith Ogden said that he would be taking a report to the Licensing and Safety Committee on 28 February 2007 which would ask the Members to consider relaxing the condition which states that medicals must be carried out by a family GP. Keith Ogden understood that there is a centre within reasonable travelling distance. All those present felt that any move to make applying for a badge less expensive was a good idea.
- 6 CRB ONLINE** – Janet Brereton informed everyone that the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) had recently launched an online service that allowed applicants to track their application. Applicants would need their form reference number which would be given to them, along with details on how to search. The website address for an online search is [www.crb.gov.uk](http://www.crb.gov.uk)
- Go to 'Quick Links' (at top of home page)
  - select – 'Online Tracking'
  - Go to end of page, select 'Click here to use online tracking'
  - Enter details as requested
- 7 SMOKEFREE CHORLEY - UPDATE** – Janet Brereton explained that she was a representative on the work group. She had attended a smoke-free work group last December to look at the ways the Council should approach the legislation (which comes into force on 1 July 2007) and how to publicise it. There is a website [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk) for anyone requiring further information. Howard Bee handed round a card which he had picked up in Preston which could be incorporated with information about the taxis and advice regarding stopping smoking. Concerns were raised about potential trouble from customers who refused to put out cigarettes and it was mentioned that this might form part of the case for Taxi Marshalls being made available at the Rank. There was also a discussion about a possible Taxi Watch scheme, similar to that of Pub Watch which banned well-known troublemakers. From the discussion that followed it was agreed that the following items should be taken forward to the next Smokefree Chorley work group which was due to take place on Wednesday 31 January 2007.

Enforcement issues/tolerance/lead in period

Provision of information about smoking shelters – how to meet all criteria.

Benches outside drinking areas

- 8 ROAD SAFETY ACT 2006**– Keith Ogden explained that under current legislation, if the Council suspends a person's licence to drive hackney/private hire vehicles for whatever reason, that person has 21

days to appeal and during that 21 days is able to drive. If an appeal is made within the 21 days, that person is able to continue to drive until the appeal is heard. However, under the new Road Safety Act 2006, the Council would be able to make it immediate if necessary. This would be at the Committee's discretion and be used where public safety is at risk. The second change was the way 'chauffeur driven' firms who have contracts of not less than 7 days operate. This part of the act would be repealed and anyone providing a vehicle and driver would need to be licensed. These changes are to come into force between 1 May 2007 and 30 November 2007. Keith Ogden pointed out that funeral cars and wedding cars would still be exempt.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**9.1 Best Bar None Initiative**– A panel member raised the Best Bar None Initiative and Howard Bee said that a meeting was taking place at South Ribble Borough Council on Monday 5 February 2007 regarding rolling this out. Janet Brereton was attending this meeting on Howard Bee's behalf and would report back.

**9.2 Door Staff** – A panel member raised issues regarding licensed premises with no door staff and Pub Watch membership. This matter was discussed and it was agreed that Councillor Mrs Smith and Howard Bee speak to the police regarding this.

**9.3 Café Culture** – A panel member asked about the Street Cafe Policy that was being drawn up to create a vibrant night-time economy. It was understood that this was in the process of being consulted on. Other matters were raised concerning the Supermarket Pricing Policy which allowed supermarkets to sell alcohol at a loss and it was suggested that this was a matter for the Member of Parliament. It was agreed that Howard Bee take this matter forward to the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services, Andy Docherty, as it may be an area the Alcohol Harm Reduction Officer would be involved in.

**9.4 Traffic Lights at Hartwood Roundabout** - A panel member asked whether it would possible to have the traffic lights at the Hartwood Roundabout operating on a part time basis as was the case at other major junctions. He pointed out that at 4am, there seemed little benefit in having the traffic lights in operation. Janet Brereton was asked to contact Lancashire County Council to ask about the possibility of this.

**9.5 Decking outside No 15s**– A panel member asked about the decking outside No. 15s and a previous email was read out. This matter would be addressed by the Street Café Policy in due course.

**9.6 Benches outside drinking areas** – This matter will be taken to the forthcoming Smokefree Work Group.

**9.7 On-Street Drinking Ban** – The merits of this were discussed, but it was generally thought that the Council had to show why a drinking ban would be beneficial in a specific area.

**9.8 Overseas Applicants for Hackney/Private Hire Licences** – A panel member asked for clarification on the policy for the above. The policy states that if an applicant has resided in the United Kingdom for less than five years or has spent six continuous months or more overseas he must

produce evidence of a criminal record check from the country or countries in which he has previously resided. Where the evidence is not in English it must be translated into English by an accepted translation body.

**9.9 One Stop Shop** – A panel member raised concerns about the length of time some hackney/private hire applications are taking to process.

Howard Bee noted these concerns and explained that he was attending a meeting that afternoon to discuss these issues and he would report back.

**9.10 Town Centre Forum** – A panel member asked for the date of the next Town Centre Forum. This is 7 March 2007 in the Lancastrian Room, Town Hall at 5.45pm

10 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – the next meeting will take place on Monday 2 April 2007 at 10.30am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley.

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