

LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 16 March 2009

PRESENT Councillor Iris Smith, Councillor Edward Smith, Stephen Culleton, Janet Brereton, Azad Malik, Phil Cooper, Antony Price, Paul Clitheroe, Shak Ahmed, Mohammed Sajid, Hifzur Mala and David Hamer.

1 **APOLOGIES:** Peter Verhaege, Tony Bushell, Conrad Heald and Bob Beeston

2 **MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

2.1 Amendment to Minutes 5.15 regarding 7-inch rule – Janet Brereton pointed out an error on the minutes relating to the 12 January 2009 meeting. This should refer to the Vauxhall Astra Estate (from 2004 onwards) and not the Vauxhall Vectra.

2.2 Dates not running concurrent - Following a report taken to the appropriate committee in response to requests from proprietors, Licensing has now put in place a 13 month MOT rule. This means that a vehicle can be tested up to 4 weeks prior to its test date and still retain its original date. For example, if a vehicle is due for test on 20th April 2009 and goes for a test on 2nd April 2009 the test expiry date will be 20th April 2010. The same rule will apply for 4 and 6 monthly tests. Where licence expiry dates and test expiry dates are out of sync, it may be possible to request a 5 month licence to bring them into line.

2.3 Number of vehicles not relicensed since new testing arrangements introduced (November 2008) – Unfortunately, this information was not available although it was thought to be about 30 vehicles. Up to date information will be provided at the next meeting of the Licensing Liaison Panel.

3 **Licensing's proposed move to Bengal Street** – Everyone present was informed that Licensing would be moving to the Council's Bengal Street Depot by April 2009. Everyone was informed that there are no reception facilities at Bengal Street and meetings and appointments etc would be via pre-arranged appointment at Union Street, although staff would still be available by telephone and email. Concern was expressed as to access to the Licensing staff and anyone with any concerns was advised to write to Councillor I Smith.

4 **New fees and charges in force from 1 April 2009** – Stephen Culleton informed everyone of the new fees and charges which were approximately 3%. The report had been accepted by the relevant Licensing Committee and advertised. No objections had been received and the new fees would be applied from 1 April 2009. There were no questions from those present.

5 **PUB WATCH ITEMS**

David Hamer reported that Peter Verhaege had attended the National Pub Watch 3rd Annual Conference.

He also informed the meeting that there had recently been an Extraordinary Meeting of Pub Watch attended by representatives of the Chorley Guardian. This meeting produced a joint initiative to promote Chorley and draw attention to some of the more positive stories in and around the town, as well as look at a joint charitable initiative. Discussion followed.

Stephen Culleton informed the panel about a discussion document out for consultation at present relating to alcohol harm. This includes strategies for taxis and pubs in relation to the late night economy.

6 **POLICE ITEMS**

There were no officers present, but Stephen Culleton informed the panel that there would be an alcohol conference taking part at the Town Hall, Chorley on 11 May

2009. This was aimed at off and on-licence trade. There would be presentations by the police, fire brigade and licensing. Invitations would be sent out in due course.

7 HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE ITEMS

7.1 Bumps, scratches and burns – (deferred from the last meeting) Stephen Culleton explained that there would be guidelines for testers to work with. He said he would encourage testers to be firm to ensure a fleet of vehicles which look presentable. He agreed that minor scuffs will go through, but not scratches to metal for example. Burns on seats would need to be addressed.

7.2 Clarification on Tyre depth – clarification was handed round which stated the following:

Vehicle safety report (taxi form 110) – road tyres and spare wheel must have 3mm of tread over central $\frac{3}{4}$ of tread width.

Taxi test (taxi form 65 new C) item 17 spare wheel must have 3mm tread depth over central $\frac{3}{4}$ of tread width

MOT test standards road tyres must have 1.6mm of tread over central $\frac{3}{4}$ of tread width; spare tyre is not tested on MOT.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Unmet Demand Survey – the survey has been deferred for 6 months. This was a committee decision and committee had taken into account that during the survey the Department of Transport consultation document came out. The consultation covers all hackney carriages having to be disabled access by 2010 (Chorley is identified as being in Phase A). A panel member asked whether the consultation document is relevant given that the survey had been based on unmet demand. A full discussion took place and the panel was informed that the Council has to be seen to look at all the issues involved when making a final decision about the unmet demand and this included numbers and issues such as disabled access. The unmet demand survey itself makes reference to impending legislation.

8.2 Youth Services – Stephen Culleton had been asked to find out whether a mural which was due to be painted in conjunction with Youth Services could include a hackney carriage. A contribution towards the costs etc was requested and Mohammed Sajid said that he would speak to the rest of the trade to canvass opinion.

8.3 Newsletter – Stephen Culleton drew the panel's attention to the newsletter which was in the process of being compiled.

8.4 Message from Chair of Licensing – Councillor Iris Smith thanked everyone for their attendance and participation in the Licensing Liaison Panel and the recent workshops.

9 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – the next meeting has been arranged for Monday 8 June 2009 at 10.30am in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley.