

## Licensing Liaison Panel

**Meeting notes for 23 June 2016**

**Chorley Council, Town Hall**

### Attendance:

Chorley Council: Cllr Marion Lowe – Chair Licensing and Public Safety Committee  
 Jamie Carson – Director of Early Intervention  
 Lesley Miller- Regulatory Services Manager  
 Steve Culleton- Lead Licensing and Enforcement Officer

Taxi Licensing Trade: Shakail Ahmed – Hackney  
 Shamail Ahmed – Private Hire  
 Andrew Price- Yellow Cabs  
 Anthony Price – Yellow Cabs  
 Paul Clitheroe – Chorley Auto Care  
 Charles Oakes – The Hackney Drivers Association Ltd

Licensing Trade: Peter Verhaege- Pub Watch and Licenced Trade

Agenda Item	Discussion Notes	Actions
Part 1-1	Apologies- Fred Lewis- Fred has offered his resignation of the Group and the Chair asked that the minutes note the Group's thanks top Fred for his contribution over the years.	
2	Minutes from Meeting on 30 November 2015- LM apologised for the misunderstanding- she thought she had sent the previous minutes with the draft agenda but the group said they had not had them.	LM (these were sent out immediately after the meeting)
3	Matters Arising –to be deferred until the next meeting	LM
4	Licensed Premises – PV gave an update from pubwatch and raised concerns over bank holiday Monday CCTV coverage as the CCTV stops being manned at midnight and can this be extended on bank holidays as many premises are open until 4am SC asked if the issues with fans coming to football matches had been resolved and PV said that the police and club and sorted the matter. SC asked if there had been any issues associated with Euro 16- PV only aware of one at Last Orders – new DPS who is part of pubwatch PV reported some issues with barred individuals drinking at Trader Jacks- who are currently not attending pubwatch. PV explained that pubwatch has an emergency online link in addition to the town centre radio, which is useful Approx 18 pubs currently in pubwatch scheme. Town centre working group- nothing to report relating to taxis- PV to contact Anthony Price as he would like to represent the trade on this group.	JC to raise with Louise Elo and respond
5	Gambling Act – nothing to add from last time- policy still under review	
6	Police Items – police have not asked for any matters to be included in	

	<p>this item and are not in attendance.</p>	
<p>Part 2 1.</p>	<p>Taxi Items –</p> <p>LM asked the trade to consider what they would deem reasonable timescales for phasing in the conditions relating to emissions standards and safety ratings of vehicles for inclusion in the report for the next LPSC on 20<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>CO commented that here has never been any previous mention of the proposed condition 22- NCAP ratings-</p> <p>LM advised that it was consulted upon within the group prior to submission to LPSC in February where the conditions were agreed in principle and the role of the LLP today was to consider and proposed hwo those conditions would be implemented, not if.</p> <p><b>(the previous minutes state: Condition 21- Emissions- Agreed a) that engines would be switched off except in very cold conditions to allow heater to be used without draining the battery. Cllr Walmsley suggested that a pragmatic approach would be taken to enforcement in such weather conditions. b) Euro 5 requirements- confirmed that phased approach and timescales would be agreed by LPSC, but would not immediately impact on existing vehicles. Shak proposed that this conditions was scrapped until we know more. Condition 22- NCAP safety ratings- again a phased approach to this, but the panel agreed that this was an appropriate way to improve vehicle safety in the long term.)</b></p> <p>CO also commented that, in relation to the emissions condition, he wanted information on the air quality for the Town Centre.</p> <p>LM advised that this is not just about town centre air quality but the impact of transport across the borough, the bus services are controlled by LCC and Chorley Council have standards for our fleet vehicles, we are not able to control domestic/private vehicles but can exert control through the licensing regime on taxis- and this is an appropriate step to take to preserve public health.</p> <p>PC made a comment about banning all vehicles from the town centre and that this policy would force out all taxi trade over the next 2-3 years and he would organise a strike to demonstrate impact of removing taxis as part of the transport system.</p> <p>CO said the trade will disagree with the conditions proposed.</p> <p>With regard to the phased approach Anthony Price suggested that the conditions were not implemented until 2030. CO suggested that existing vehicles ought to be exempt from conditions 21 and 22. There were no other suggestions. The proposal will be put to LPSC as</p>	<p>JC advised that the last previous minutes would be checked and sent out and if there had been any omission to consult the trade then this would be rectified and the inclusion at the next LPSC meeting delayed if appropriate- the previous minutes show that both matters were previously consulted upon</p> <p>LM</p>

	part of the report.	
2.	<p>CSE training- LM advised that the LPSC had agreed that mandatory training for all drivers, proprietors and operators and that the Council had decided to follow the lead of a number of other Lancashire Authorities and ask the police to deliver the training.</p> <p>CO- stated it was not training but a presentation and asked if the cost was coming out of the public purse.</p> <p>SC advised that the costs would be looked at and in the future, the training for new drivers would likely be included in the cost of the application but it was hoped to use the low cost existing LCC online training package.</p> <p>CO suggested that we introduce a booklet for drivers to keep in the vehicle as a reference – this is what happens in Manchester- SC to obtain one and look at the feasibility of also producing something for Chorley.</p> <p>CO objected to SC's terminology with regard to this being training. SC explained that this is safeguarding and CSE awareness training and that this is the correct terminology to use.</p>	<p>SC to confirm if the trade will eventually pick up the cost of this training and include information in the LPSC report- info suggests that the Council will need to fund this outside of the licensing budget.</p>
3	<p>LM advised that the CSE training report and phased implementation of the vehicle conditions 21 and 22 would be going to the next LPSC on 20<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>The licensing statement of policy for the Licensing Act 2003 would also be submitted for approval.</p>	LM
4	<p>Anthony Price asked for medical and DBS to be put on the agenda: Andrew said that as he turned 50 he was required to have a medical and lost half of his licence. There was also a question about why you can't have a dual badge if you renew a single HCD or PHD badge.</p> <p>LM explained that you can't renew something that does not exist and that it was agreed to align the medical and DBS and therefore each case is given the option on how best to do this and the most cost effective way at the time.</p> <p>LM advised that the licence fees review would start shortly so that new fees could be implemented in April 2017.</p>	LM
5	<p>SC provided clarification on the process and policy in relation to the suspension of a vehicle, in particular HCV, and how the plate number is preserved and given preferentially to the existing proprietor, what happens with a suspension and how a vehicle is no longer a taxi once suspended or where the licence is surrendered so that the plate can be used on another vehicle- requiring the application for a grant rather than a renewal if the proprietor wants to licence that vehicle again in the future.</p>	SC to provide the notes relating to this to attach to the minutes

	<p>CO did not agree with the use of the term 'preferential' in relation to this and argued that no grant should be given to another vehicle on the same plate number. He also argued that the law was unreasonable only allowing a suspension for 2 months and that the Council should be more flexible on this because of the prolonged periods the insurance companies take to resolve claims.</p> <p>SC advised that the Council are not able to act outside the provisions of the law. He also said that it was more than fair to ensure that the HCV proprietor was given preferential treatment to retain the plate under the current circumstances where Chorley limit the numbers of HCV's.</p>	
6	<p>AOB-</p> <p>There was a number of discussions and comments throughout the meeting as follows:</p> <p>a) Consultation- CO wanted to know the point of consultation to the trade, conceding that the Council do not have to consult, but that either we don't or we ask the whole trade, who are not going to respond. Shak also raised concerns about the consultation and if the NCAP ratings were consulted on- the previous minutes reflect the fact they were and also show his attendance at that meeting.</p> <p>It was unclear if CO just wanted all consultation to go through him for a response and not to the trade as a whole- CO is included on all consultations but the Council also consult with all licence holders that may be affected by the proposals. CO remarked that most of the trade do not understand the information sent to them and therefore we don't get sufficient responses to consultations.</p> <p>JC commented that CO had first said we don't; consult at all then that the people we ask won't respond, JC advised that we can't make people respond to consultations, but we should be asking them- we have no control over the responses. However, if there are other ways of consulting that would improve responses then we would like to explore those.</p> <p>b) Minutes- CO proposed a motion that as the trade pay for the LLP meetings through the licence fees then we should have someone from democratic services taking proper minutes because there are too many arguments about what has been said and done. It was also discussed that this is an informal meeting and that there may be issues with the scheme of delegation if this meeting were to be made more formal and put on the calendar of council meetings. SC confirmed that this is not a meeting for use as a platform for all matters to then be escalated to the LPSC, but more for discussion. It was agreed that the membership and inclusion of the panel should be expanded as this may assist in future consultation.</p> <p>c) Anthony Price commented that he thought officer lead committee in their decision making- SC explained that officers may make a number of recommendations to committee but the reports are in the public forum and there is no direction from</p>	<p>LM to raise with democratic and legal services</p>

	<p>officers and the committee are there to make the decision based on the information provided, but the reports are unbiased.</p> <p>d) AP also raised concern over Rossendale HCVs coming into the Borough. CO advised that there was a new policy that requires the HC licence holder to sign to say they are working in the Rossendale area, so this will phase out these issues in time, but there are also financial considerations for Rossendale Council to be considered. SC reported that we have had a number of recent applications from drivers that used to be licenced at Rossendale but as they are working in this area are applying for licences here.</p>	
	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Wednesday 5th October 12.30pm  Wednesday 18th January 12.30pm</p> <p>CO asked why the meeting times had been changed from a Monday morning. Chair advised that she works mornings and is unable to reschedule her work commitments, but we can move the meeting to 12.30 to assist the trade.</p>	<p>LM</p>