

Licensing Liaison Panel

Meeting notes for 5 October 2016

Chorley Council, Town Hall

Attendance:

Chorley Council: Cllr Marion Lowe – Chair Licensing and Public Safety Committee
Cllr Anthony Gee – Vice-Chair Licensing and Public Safety Committee
Lesley Miller- Regulatory Services Manager
Tracy Brzozowski - Licensing Enforcement Officer

Taxi Licensing Trade: Shakail Ahmed – Hackney
Shamail Ahmed – Private Hire
Andrew Price- Yellow Cabs
Anthony Price – Yellow Cabs
Phil Cooper- Cooper's
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- None-	
2	Minutes from Meeting on 23 June 2016- LM made a small amendment to the notes following clarification from PV in relation to football fans. TB updated on the issues that had been raised and the action to be taken by police and Local authority in speaking to the premises involved in the complaint- but no public order issues were identified in the investigations. The minute notes were agreed by CO and Aw Price	LM
3	Matters Arising – LM asked Head of Governance and Democratic Services for a minute taker- the response was that this meeting is an informal consultation meeting rather than a formal Council meeting and therefore it is not appropriate to provide an officer from democratic services to take formal minutes. LM offered that someone form the trade could take the notes if they wished but the offer was declined.	LM
4	Licensed Premises – PV advised there were no issues raised for this panel from pubwatch. The town centre premises are looking forward to Chorley Lice this weekend AP had sent his apologies for the last Town Centre working group meeting. CO offered to attend in AP's place as the taxi trade rep if this was more convenient. AP advised that his intention was to attend. LM and PV had discussed the matter of safeguarding training and a presentation to pubwatch in the new year and PV had agreed this was an excellent idea and as chair has committed to agreeing to this training. CO raised a good point about training for the taxi trade and issues in particular with some Council's undertaking anti-terrorism training with	

	<p>the trade and then advertising them as the eyes and ears- there are concerns about certain social groups targeting the taxi trade and fear of reprisals. LM and Cllr Gee agree this was a fair point and that although we have no intention of advertising our training or introducing anti-terrorism training, any communications in relation to this would need to be handled delicately. TB pointed out that we can't control information put out by other bodies or FOI applications from the press, but we need to be careful not to put a spot light on the taxi trade.</p>	
5	<p>Gambling Act – Policy has been out for consultation and the consultation responses have been very constructive and will be added to the policy and hopefully it will come into effect by the next LPS Committee.</p>	TB
6	<p>Police Items – police have not asked for any matters to be included in this item and are not in attendance.</p>	
Part 2 1.	<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 following a request from the LPSC on 20th July, for further consultation with the trade</p> <p>There was a lot of discussion on this point and everyone from the trade made comments and contributions to this.</p> <p>It was agreed in the end that the following would be put forward to the next LPS Committee in November:</p> <p>That the conditions for both emissions and safety should be phased in together rather than having a different approach to each condition.</p> <p>That the proposed timescale put forward by members at the LPSC of 8 years (1st January 2024) be presented as an option for existing vehicles and those that have previously been licenced but are subject to a grant (EG due to a suspension because of an accident etc), that if the original vehicle is written off by an insurance company, the grandfather rights apply as long as the vehicle proprietor replaces with a like for like (make, model and age) or better- and all other vehicle conditions are met.</p> <p>That the conditions apply to new grants from 1st January 2017.</p> <p>That an alternative proposal for new grants is presented that delays this implementation until 1st January 2020. (put forward by Shak)</p> <p>That an alternative proposal for the removal of these conditions and replacement with a 10 year vehicle age limit be considered and if agreed in principle then go out for consultation, but to not be applicable to existing vehicles for 5 years (put forward by AP and PC)</p>	

	CO is to put the question in writing to LM for inclusion in the report with regard to insurance write offs and the limitations on the replacements, to clarify the addition to the proposal. And also his comments on the proposal to apply and age limit as an alternative.	
2.	This week Chorley Council has launched the consultation on the consolidated Taxi Licensing Policy and will welcome comments. Everyone will get a personal letter with a link to the consultation, but it is already on the website and will be open for 12 weeks to the end of December.	LM
3	<p>TB updated on the notification from DVSA that they are no longer carrying out taxi driver tests. Cllrs are keen to maintain standards and therefore still require a higher level of driver testing. The LPSC agreed for us to pursue an interim emergency measure for this testing. Currently we have identified 3 companies that have a comparable test at a comparable price. The proposal is to use all three companies and allow drivers to choose and we may also find more for the future. As yet we are waiting for details of location but all 3 are used by neighbouring local authorities. It was agreed by the trade that a choice of providers was appropriate.</p> <p>Similarly, we need to find an alternative for paper DBS checks as there is a risk because Chorley do not currently carry out sufficient numbers for us to retain our licence. TB has identified 3 companies who can carry out checks on our behalf and is having a meeting with one today, so we can get an interim measure in place by 1/11/16, then trial for 6 months before we make any commitment. The e-bulk services are more efficient and usually get priority over paper applications so are potentially dealt with more quickly, in general, but they do cost slightly more.</p> <p>AP felt that the extra £15 or so would be worth it if we can get driver applications processed more quickly as a result.</p> <p>CO wants to stress the need for the Council to put in safeguards in any SLA to protect the trade from hikes in price of these services.</p>	TB
4	Drivers handbook LM asked Co for clarification as there is an off the shelf handbook available as did we want to price this up. CO will get a copy of the Manchester book as this is a good example of a bespoke / home grown handbook.	CO
5	LM advised that the licence fees review has started and a report will be going to LPSC in November and the fees would then go out for consultation, so that new fees could be implemented in April 2017	LM
6	AOB- None	
	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting PV asked if we can avoid the first Wed in each month as this is pubwatch. It was agreed we would try to arrange for Mondays in the future, starting at 12.30 prompt.</p> <p>Next meeting: Monday 16th January 12.30pm</p>	LM