

<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Taxi and Private Hire licensing.	<b>Status:</b>	For Publication
<b>Report to:</b>	Licensing Committee	<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Report of:</b>	Public Protection Manager	<b>Portfolio Holder:</b>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>General Exception</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Special Urgency</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</b>	Required:	No	Attached: No
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Phil Morton	<b>Telephone:</b>	01706 252442
<b>Email:</b>	philmorton@rossendalebc.gov.uk		

1.	<b>RECOMMENDATION(S)</b>
1.1	That members note the contents of the report
1.2	

## 2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

2.1 To update members of developments in relation to the taxi and private hire trade.

## 3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:

- **clean and green Rossendale:** our priority is to keep Rossendale clean and green for all of Rossendale's residents and visitors, and to take available opportunities to recycle and use energy from renewable sources more efficiently.
- **A connected and successful Rossendale that welcomes sustainable growth:** our priority is to ensure that we are well connected to our residents, key partners and stakeholders. We want to make the most of every pound we spend and we are always looking for new and innovative ways to make the resources we do have, work harder for us.
- **A proud, healthy and vibrant Rossendale:** our priority is to ensure that we are creating and maintaining a healthy and vibrant place for people to live and visit.

## 4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

## 5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

5.1 The continued implementation of the adopted Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy is now having a significant impact on the profile and nature of the taxi industry within Rossendale. This report is to update members on a number of changes to both drivers and vehicles

### 5.2 Drivers

The knowledge and conditions test for all drivers, both new and renewal has now been running for 1 year. During this time all new and renewal drivers have been obliged to take part one and part two of the test.

This consists of questions on basic maths and English, local conditions and by-laws and a geographic knowledge test on the Rossendale area.

This test is designed to ensure that all drivers licensed by Rossendale are fit and proper to be

licensed by the authority.

Part 2 of the test is a classroom based, interactive 2 hour session delivered by an experienced trainer in Safeguarding, CSE and disability awareness. This is followed by a test to ensure that applicants have understood and absorbed the training.

The whole test and training package has been designed in conjunction with a third party provider and is recognised as being an exemplar of good practice.

Since June 2017, the following number of drivers have taken the test

#### **New drivers – Knowledge and Conditions Tests**

Total tests booked 470

61 Passed (This figure will include renewal hackney carriage drivers that applied for a private hire drivers licence before their hackney carriage driver licence was due for renewal)

307 Failed

102 Didn't turn up

#### **Renewal drivers – Knowledge and Conditions Tests**

Total tests booked 321

92 Passed

192 Failed

23 Didn't turn up

14 Cancelled (Wishing not to continue with renewing their driver licence)

#### **Safeguarding Tests (New and Renewal Drivers)**

Total tests taken and passed = 151 (2 previous candidates are still awaiting their Safeguarding Test due to holiday or other work commitments)

#### **The total number of licences due for renewal between 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2018**

1138

This shows that from the total number of drivers due to renew their licences, only 321 applied to do so and only 92 passed the test (8%)

Between June 2018 and 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 a further 2084 drivers are due to renew their licences. The expectation is that a similar percentage will continue to apply to renew, and to take and pass the test.

This will result in a significant decrease in the total number of hackney carriage drivers licensed by Rossendale BC.

### 5.3 **VEHICLES**

The continued enforcement of the councils policies in relation to intended use and other vehicle conditions , have seen the number of hackney carriages licensed by Rossendale reduce considerably over the last 12 months.

The total number of vehicles licensed in 2016 was around 2500, the vast majority of which were working outside the area.

The figure as of 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018 has reduced to 500.

Enforcement activity is still continuing to ensure that those who choose to ignore Rossendale’s policies are dealt with accordingly.

The councils policy of insisting CCTV is fitted in all our licensed vehicles is now being used as an example of good practice across the North west and further afield.

Neighbouring authorities are now considering their policies and a number are consulting on adopting the requirement.

Rossendale is also leading on work across the county to formulate a common set of standards in relation to the licensing of drivers and vehicles.

Recent renewed press coverage of the perceived issues allegedly continuing in Rossendale gave us a national platform to show the vast amount of work the council has done to ensure that vehicles, drivers and operators licensed by us are the safest possible.

The “Safe 2 Ride” driver training programme designed in conjunction with our service provider is now being adopted by a number of councils across the country.

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**6. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

6.1 There are no specific financial implications

**7. MONITORING OFFICER**

7.1 The Council must make a decision based on all relevant information and following consideration of all relevant Council policies

**8. POLICY IMPLICATIONS AND CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

8.1 none

**9. CONCLUSION**

9.1 That members note the contents of this report

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
none	