

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday 6 September 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Green (Chair), Bellamy, Booker, Bowser, Clarke, Eastwood, Hunt, Lodge, Murray, Osborne, Tattersall and P. Wright

19 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

20 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Licensing Regulatory Board meeting held on 19 April 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

21 Licensing and Enforcement Update

Members were provided with an overview of the enforcement work that had recently been undertaken by Licensing Officers.

Members were advised that on 21 July 2023 Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside South Yorkshire Police Officers had taken part in a night time operation which was focused on Barnsley town centre and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and vehicles that work in the night time economy. Councillor Green, Chair of the General Licensing Regulatory Board, was also in attendance. In total, 26 licensed vehicles and drivers had been inspected on the night, which had included 3 vehicles that were licenced by other local authorities.

The results of the vehicles inspected as part of the operation were as follows:-

- 18 vehicles were found to be fully compliant.
- 2 vehicles were suspended for having no working number plate lights. The vehicles were repaired and had their licenses reinstated on the night.
- 3 written warnings were issued to drivers for failing to complete their daily vehicle checks.

Members were advised of a joint two day enforcement operation that had been undertaken with Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside colleagues in the Safer Neighbourhoods Team. A total of 13 scrap metal sites had been visited during the enforcement operation, of which 10 sites had been found to be compliant and 3 sites had licences which had already lapsed. All site owners had been spoken to and advised, and the 3 sites had now submitted applications to obtain the relevant licences and carry on their business legitimately.

The Licensing Officers were liaising with the Safer Neighbourhoods Team and South Yorkshire Police to arrange future joint enforcement operations to target scrap metal sites and collectors, to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation.

Proactive enforcement operations would continue to take place on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and vehicles, and with the scrap metal dealers that were licensed under the Scrap Metal Dealers 2013.

Councillor Osborne requested that Members be invited to observe a future operation on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and vehicles.

In response, Councillor Green commented that Members would be invited to observe the next operation with the Licensing Officers and South Yorkshire Police Officers.

Councillor Eastwood expressed her thanks to the Licensing Officers for the enforcement work undertaken on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and vehicles, which continued to keep members of the public safe when travelling in the vehicles.

RESOLVED that Members supported Officers and encouraged Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers and operators to comply with the conditions of their licence and continue to keep their vehicles as safe as possible for both drivers and customers at all times.

Chair