

Public Document Pack

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 28 October 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

AGENDA

1 Declaration of Interests

To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

2 Minutes (*Pages 3 - 6*)

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th September, 2020.

3 Enforcement Update (*Pages 7 - 10*)

The Service Director Legal Services will submit a report providing an overview of the work Licensing Officers are currently undertaking to advise and support the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade during the Covid pandemic.

To: Chair and Members of General Licensing Regulatory Board*:-

Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, A. Cave, Charlesworth, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, Dyson, Eastwood, Franklin, Green, Greenhough, Daniel Griffin, Hayward, C. Johnson, Kitching, Lodge, McCarthy, Murray, Noble, Saunders, Shepherd, Sumner, Tattersall, Williams and Wilson

*** Membership subject to appointment at Annual Council on the 22nd October, 2020**

Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services
Matt Gladstone, Executive Director Place
Kevin Glover, Strategic Manager - Transport
Garry Kirk, Service Director Legal Services
Sajeda Khalifa, Solicitor
Jamie Impey, Legal Services
Debbie Bailey, Regulatory Services Field Officer

Please contact William Ward on email governance@barnsley.gov.uk

Tuesday, 20 October 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 9 September 2020
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), P. Birkinshaw, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, Eastwood, Gillis, Green, Greenhough, Daniel Griffin, C. Johnson, W. Johnson, Kitching, McCarthy, Noble, Saunders, Tattersall and Williams

20 Declaration of Interests

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

21 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 19th February, 2020 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

22 Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence - Application

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report on an application for the grant of a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence in respect of Gentleman Jacks, Theatre Royal, Wellington Street, Barnsley.

Members noted that the current Policy in Barnsley was that only one venue could hold a licence at any one time in the Central Ward where Gentleman Jacks is sited and that this Licence was currently held by Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who own Wildcats. Members were informed that if they were to award the licence to Gentleman Jacks then the licence would be removed from Wildcats, ensuring that only one venue had a licence at a time in the Ward.

Members were informed that Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who owned Wildcats had agreed to cancel their licence in order for it to be allocated to South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd who would be opening Gentleman Jacks.

In the ensuing discussion, the following matters were highlighted:

- The opening times of the venue were the same as Wildcats and that no objections had been received and that these operating times would be clarified when the licence is produced
- The changing rooms would be situated in the upstairs premises as the downstairs premises would be run as a completely separate licence

- There would be doormen on the premises at all times to ensure safety and age restrictions are complied with
- Due to the nature of the activities in relation to the venue, these are the most heavily conditioned licences to be issued which was reassuring for the public and employees
- There had been no incidents or reported trouble in the past few years from Wildcats

RESOLVED:

(ii) that South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd be granted the Sexual Entertainment Licence to open the venue Gentleman Jacks in the Central Ward; and

(ii) that in granting South Yorkshire Holdings Ltd the Licence, that Yorkshire Security Solutions Ltd who currently hold a licence for Wildcats be cancelled.

23 Enforcement Update

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report providing an overview of the continuing work of the Licensing Enforcement Officers undertaken to advise and support to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade who had continued to work during the COVID Pandemic.

Members were informed that Licensing Officers had been and continued to be proactively working with the Trade and other Local Authorities to ensure that both customers and drivers remained safe and that no official guidance had been released in relation to Hackney, Private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

Licensing Officers were working hard to support everyone that was involved. Officers had limited access to their offices in Westgate and had been attending a few hours a week in order to produce and post vehicle licence plates and driver badges to ensure continuous service.

Members noted that Officers had made the decision not to grant extensions to driver or vehicle licences to maintain public safety. Many of the garages that carry out MOT testing had remained open during the lock down ensuring that drivers could obtain the required MOT. All local knowledge tests had been cancelled and remained cancelled and no new driver applications were being accepted whilst COVID restrictions were in place.

It was reported that Licensing Officers had received several enquiries with regards to the installation of partition screens in their licensed vehicles, whilst this was not part of the vehicle policy it would comply with the Transport for London guidance in relation to screens being fitted safely and to ensure they don't interfere with airbags or become a trip hazard. Members were informed that a number of drivers had already had these fitted. These would remain in their cars as a protection screen in the future and this was seen as a vehicle safety investment for drivers going forward.

Members were informed that facemask wearing for both drivers and passengers was not compulsory, however, Licensing Officers had sourced around 1700 masks which was enough for every Hackney Carriage vehicle to have a box to hand out to customers to keep everyone safe. Drivers were also encouraged to sanitise vehicles

after every passenger, focusing on seatbelt buckles and door handles but this was not enforceable and was guidance only.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Board place on record it's thanks and appreciation to the staff within the Licensing Service for all their hard work in ensuring the continued safety of the drivers and travelling public during the COVID pandemic.

Digitalisation

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Licensing Officer gave an update to members with regards to the Digitalisation of the Licensing function which was due to be rolled out in April 2020. This had been put on hold but Licensing Officers were working with IT to get it up and running as soon as possible. In the interim Officers and drivers had been corresponding by email, taking payments over the phone and badges and plates being posted out rather than collected in person from the offices which are currently closed and thankfully everyone was on board and working well together.

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

Item 3

**Report of the Service Director
Legal Services to the
General Licensing Regulatory Board
to be held on the 28 October 2020**

ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report, is to provide Members with an overview of the work Licensing Officers are currently undertaking to advise and support the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade during the COVID pandemic.

2. Background

Members are minded to note, that Licensing Officers are continuing to proactively work with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trade and other Local Authorities to ensure that those who choose to work through this COVID pandemic can do so whilst ensuring to the best of everyone's ability that both customers and drivers remain safe.

3. Current Position

Officers are continuing to work extremely hard in difficult circumstances to help and support drivers and operators whether they have chosen to work or not during the COVID pandemic.

Face Coverings

Members will be aware that following the Prime Ministers announcement on 22 September 2020 it is now a legal requirement for passengers to wear a face covering in taxis and private hire vehicles. There are exemptions and drivers need to be mindful of customers who are exempted from wearing face masks through age, disability or underlying medical issues.

It is also strongly advised and encouraged by officers that all our drivers also wear face coverings.

We advise operators confirm with their customers at the time of booking the expectation for them to wear face masks or provide reasons they would be unable to.

At the request of Officers, the taxi marshal have been monitoring the number of drivers wearing a face masks when working and I am happy to report that since the requirement for passengers to wear masks in a licensed vehicles became enforceable the marshals have subsequently reported that all Hackney Carriage drivers are wearing masks when carrying passengers.

Electric Vehicles

To help Barnsley reduce its carbon emissions, limit the effects of climate change, and improve local air quality, the Council aims to reduce the amount of carbon emitted through travel as part of its Zero 45 programme. The UK Government Road To Zero strategy sets measures to drive the uptake of ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) including an outright ban on the sale of petrol and diesel engine passenger vehicles by 2035. Funding has been made available to Local Authorities through the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to support investment in electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and Barnsley Council are committed to ensuring that available support is made available in the Borough to ensure residents, businesses and visitors are able to access the benefits of ULEVs and EVs.

Energy Saving Trust (EST) is an independent UK-based organisation focused on promoting action that leads to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. They offer a source of free advice and information and they are currently assisting Officers build an evidence base for future work in relation to low-carbon transport in Barnsley.

Officers working with our colleagues in Sustainability & Climate Change and the Energy Saving Trust and are currently engaging with private hire and hackney carriage drivers to gather information as to their thoughts and attitudes towards electric vehicles and their vehicle usage patterns. As part of this work Officers have sent out a survey to all our licensed drivers asking for information in relation to their average daily mileage, distances of their

average fares, most frequent customer journeys, their views in relation to electric vehicles and any obstacles to them purchasing electric vehicles both now and in the future.

As taxis and private hire vehicles predominantly accumulate high mileage through short journeys Officers are working with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to understand how we can support taxi and private hire drivers to switch to electric vehicles in the future. The responses to the survey will help to inform decisions around the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure and is part of ongoing work to improving local air quality and help the Borough transition to a zero carbon future.

Research has shown that the key concerns of drivers around purchasing ULEVs or EVs are perceptions around the limited range of vehicles (sometimes referred to as range anxiety), cost of vehicles and lack of charging infrastructure. The Council can play a key role in ensuring that sufficient infrastructure is in place to overcome concerns about range and availability of chargepoints, and as an owner of significant car-parking assets is well placed to do so.

Our colleagues in Sustainability & Climate Change are also applying for funding from the Defra Air Quality Grant in a joint project with Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council. If successful the funding will be used to deliver a project to collect real-world data on drivers' vehicle usage. The data will be used to produce a costed business case for the driver to convert to either an EV or ULEV and show how a suitable vehicle could fit within the way they use their current vehicle and compare the total ownership cost between a diesel or petrol engine vehicle and ULEV or EV.

£2.6 million of funding is available at the City Region level for electric vehicle infrastructure and Barnsley will be leading on delivering additional infrastructure throughout the City Region (Sheffield, Doncaster, Rotherham and Barnsley) between now and 2022 to deliver 229 additional chargepoints,

including rapid chargers which will be key to supporting high mileage drivers such as taxi drivers to make the change to low emission vehicles.

4. **Proposal**

Members are asked to support Officers and encourage licensed drivers to keep themselves and their customers as safe as possible during this current COVID situation and in addition support the work of officers in promoting the use of electric and low emission vehicles.

5. **Background Papers**

None available

6. **Officer Contact**

Debbie Bailey
07786525961