

<b>MEETING:</b>	General Licensing Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 22 June 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

## 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 - 4*)

To accept as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2022.

3 Driver Safeguarding Refresher Training (*Pages 5 - 8*)

The Head of Legal Services will submit a report informing Members of a planned programme of driver safeguarding refresher training to be rolled out to all licensed drivers by the end of 2022.

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

Councillors Green (Chair), Bowser, A. Cave, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, K. Dyson, Franklin, Greenhough, Hunt, Kitching, Lodge, Markham, Newing, Osborne, Pickering, Ramchandani, Risebury, Shepherd, Stowe, Sumner, Webster, White, Williams, Wilson and Wraith MBE

Shokat Lal, Executive Director Core Services (Monitoring Officer)  
Matt O'Neill, Executive Director Place  
Sajeda Khalifa, Solicitor  
Debbie Bailey, Senior Licensing Officer  
Jamie Impey, Senior Legal Officer

Please contact William Ward on email [governance@barnsley.gov.uk](mailto:governance@barnsley.gov.uk)

Tuesday, 14 June 2022

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<b>MEETING:</b>	General Licensing Regulatory Board
<b>DATE:</b>	Wednesday, 20 April 2022
<b>TIME:</b>	2.00 pm
<b>VENUE:</b>	Council Chamber, Barnsley Town Hall

## MINUTES

### Present

Councillors Green (Chair), Bruff, Cherryholme, Clarke, Danforth, K. Dyson, Eastwood, J. Higginbottom, Hunt, Lodge, Markham, Osborne, Ramchandani, Shepherd, Stowe, Tattersall, Wilson and Wray

### 21 Declaration of Interests

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

### 22 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### 23 General Licensing Annual Report

The Service Director Legal Services submitted the General Licensing Annual Report detailing the number of driver, operator and vehicle licences received, renewed or revoked during the period 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2021 to 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2022.

Over the last 12 months:

- 508 active dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences had been issued, 11 new licences had been issued, 95 licences had been surrendered or had expired and 1 licence had been revoked
- 616 vehicle licences were active, 15 Hackney Carriage Licences had been issued before but were active within the period, 126 Private Hire Vehicle Licences had been issued before but were active within the period, 69 new or renewed Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences had been issued and 406 new and renewed Private Hire Vehicle Licences had been issued
- Of the vehicle licences issued, 466 related to vehicles that were five years old or older
- 94 Operator licences were active within the period, 15 new licences had been issued and 18 licences had expired

In addition to the processing of licence applications, Officers worked proactively with live licences to ensure that all elements of those licence were current and up to date.

In the ensuing discussion, reference was made to the following:

- There was a discussion of the transportation of passengers with disabilities. It was noted that there were 11 vehicles that were wheelchair accessible, however, passenger requirements could vary dependent upon the disability

they had. There was no legislation requiring a certain percentage of vehicles to be wheelchair accessible

- It was noted that some members received complaints of taxi unavailability particularly at around school start and finish times
- There was a discussion of unmet demand and of the ways this could be addressed
- Information was provided about the criteria for Operator Licences and an explanation was given as to why there were currently 94 active licences
- A breakdown of vehicles by type (diesel/petrol/electric), by emission rate and by age could be provided.
- It was reported that there was no legislation to regulate the age of vehicles. A vehicle could be licensed and remain licensed provided it passed the stringent maintenance and standard of condition requirements. In addition, there was no age limit restriction for drivers, but all had to comply with the approved medical requirements and have a valid DBS. All drivers over the age of 60 had to have yearly medicals
- Arising out of the above, there was a discussion of the factors that would encourage the take up of electric vehicles
- In response to specific questioning, it was noted that the taxi side of the licensing Service was now fully digitised

**RESOLVED** that the Annual Report be received.

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Chair

# Item 3

**Report of the Head of Legal Services to the  
General Licensing Regulatory Board  
to be held on the 22 June 2022**

## **Driver Safeguarding Refresher Training**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report, is to inform Members of a planned programme of driver safeguarding refresher training to be rolled out to all licensed drivers by the end of 2022.

### **2. Background**

The Policing and Crime Act 2017 enabled the Secretary of State for Transport (DfT) to issue statutory guidance on exercising taxi and private hire vehicle licensing functions which was designed specifically to protect children and vulnerable individuals over the age of 18 from harm when using these services.

In line with the statutory standards published by the DfT in July 2020 and our statutory duty to have regard to the DfT's Guidance, Officers published the new Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy in March 2022 with a key aim of protecting the public and safeguarding children and the vulnerable. For this reason, all applicants for a driver's licence, and all existing licensed drivers, must undertake basic safeguarding training.

### **3. Current Position**

Officers consider that those in the taxi and private hire vehicle industry can play a crucial role in spotting and reporting the abuse, exploitation or neglect of children and vulnerable adults. As with any group of people, those working within the industry can be an asset in the detection and prevention of abuse or neglect of children and vulnerable adults.

However, this is only the case if they are aware of and alert to the signs of potential abuse and know where to turn to if they suspect that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of harm or is in immediate danger.

#### **4. Proposal**

Officers provide appropriate safeguarding advice and training to all taxi and private hire licensed drivers. This is delivered on a monthly basis to all new drivers by the Local Authority Designated Officer for Safeguarding and there is now a programme of safeguarding refresher training for all existing drivers to complete by the end of December 2022. The training will take two hours and will be free of charge to all drivers.

All licensed drivers must undertake safeguarding refresher training unless they have attended their original safeguarding training in the last 12 months. The programme of training has been developed to help drivers with the following:-

- Provide a safe and suitable service to vulnerable passengers of all ages;
- Recognise what makes a person vulnerable;
- Understand how to respond, including how to report safeguarding concerns and where to get advice.

Safeguarding awareness refresher training will also include the ways in which drivers can help to identify 'county lines' exploitation by being aware of the following warning signs:-

- Children and young people travelling in taxis or private hire vehicles alone;
- Travelling at unusual hours (during school time, early in the morning or late at night);
- Travelling long distances;
- Unfamiliar with the local area or do not have a local accent;
- Paying for journeys in cash or prepaid.

The key purpose of safeguarding training is to make drivers aware of what to do if they believe a child or vulnerable person is at risk of harm.

As always, the principal consideration must be one of public safety. Any drivers who fail to attend their safeguarding refresher training will be referred before a panel of the General Licensing Regulatory Board for determination.

Members are asked to support Officers and encourage private hire and hackney carriage drivers to attend their safeguarding refresher training as soon as possible.

**5. Background Papers**

N/A

**6. Officer Contact**

Debbie Bailey

07786525961

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