

Licensing Chairs` report

Since the last update to Full Council, the Licensing Policy has been renewed for the next 5 years. Licensing Committee has also met and has welcomed and approved reports that sought to leave taxi fees unchanged for 2021 with no increase and to inform the Committee on the local work required in accordance with the Dept. for Transport's Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards. The reports were supported by Members in particular, recognising the support being provided by the Council to the taxi trade regarding fee setting and also the work regarding driver standards to ensure public safety. Since the last report to Members, there have been 1 Sub Committee with action taken by Members via a taxi hearing.

The Environmental Health and Licensing Team and the Council's Covid Information Officers continue to work pro-actively with the Police, Trading Standards and other key agencies to ensure local businesses act in compliance with the national restrictions. Within Burnley the level of compliance is very high with businesses recognising and understanding their obligations. Officers continue to maintain patrols, contact, and offer advice and guidance to support compliance. For example, in respect of the most recent joint visits conducted between a Council Licensing Officer and the Police Licensing team there were over 40 visits undertaken to pubs and clubs in one evening across the Borough, with particular emphasis on premises where there had been previous reports made of non-compliance. We receive a high number of reports from the public regarding alleged premises that are operating over the lockdown. However, when investigated it would seem the concerns often cannot be substantiated. One public house was entered during the joint patrol, as there was activity inside, however this was found to be contractors doing some building work, so all was in order, with the Premises Licence holder present and thanking the officers for doing a good job. Other businesses such as Gyms, Late Night Food Takeaways and Street Traders were also visited, again all were deemed to be operating appropriately. Information of possible breaches is shared between Council Officers, Trading Standards Officers and the Police on a daily basis and there is a good working relationship between these agencies.

Councillor Arif Khan

Chair of Licensing

February 2021