

Chair of Licensing Committee Report -14 April 2021 Full Council

Since the last report in February Licensing Committee has not met.

Government provided Covid Outbreak Management Funds have been used to provide face covering signage for taxis, and screens have been fitted to more than 200 vehicles in the private hire fleet. Regular Covid-secure updates have been provided to licence holders including schemes available to provide regular lateral flow tests for drivers. A 'Stay Safe' promotion has just been launched to provide reassurance to customers as they start to get out and about and make greater use of taxis.

With the reopening of hospitality expected this month, all licenced premises have been contacted with advice about safe reopening and encouraged to deal with any housekeeping in relation to their licences. As regulations and new guidance become available this work will continue to ensure pubs and restaurants are compliant from a covid perspective, and licensees that may plan to use outdoor space, do so responsibly to minimise disturbance within communities. Posters to assist with this messaging will be distributed to all venues in advance of reopening.

Likewise, the Environmental Health and Licensing Team and the Council's Covid Information Officers continue to provide support across all business sectors and faith settings. Preparations are underway to provide access to a range of webinars, promotional materials and rapid testing options for employees to assist with safe reopening. Some enforcement has been necessary in relation to retail shop premises, but generally compliance remains high.

Councillor Arif Khan

Licensing Committee Chair

April 2021