

## **Report from Chair of Licensing – Cllr Jeff Sumner- 22 July 2021 Full Council**

The licenced trade are currently operating in accordance with Step 3 restrictions and regular information has been provided to support them to operate safely. This has included information bulletins, visits and comms work to encourage testing before a night out or a visit to the pub to watch the Euros. We will continue to provide support as we learn more about Step 4.

The last Licensing Committee considered a number of changes to the taxi licensing framework. These were contained in three reports -

- Covid measures - to continue temporary online safeguarding and knowledge test arrangements, and extend group 2 medicals where these could not be provided by GPs;
- DfT statutory Taxi Standards - to implement a number of additional safeguards in relation to the DBS update service, DBS checks & refresher safeguarding training; and
- Vehicle Standards - to consider the response to concerns arising from the high failure rate of vehicles during roadside targeted interventions, where committee agreed to increase the testing frequency by reintroducing 4month vehicle licences, standardise vehicle faults in line with the MOT manual and recommend full council extend officer powers to include vehicle revocations.

Taken together the measures implemented represent a significant reinforcement of the council's commitment to deliver a high level of public protection and confidence through it's taxi licensing framework.