

## **Report of Licensing Committee to full Council on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

In the period between the election and first Licensing Committee of the municipal year the Chairs & Vice-Chairs of the Scrutiny & Licensing Committees considered a revised Draft Statement of Licensing Policy. This deals with alcohol, entertainment and late night refreshment functions. The draft policy progressed to Licensing Committee where it was approved for formal consultation. That consultation process is now underway and closes on 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept. A Statement of Licensing Policy sets out how the licensing Authority will carry out its functions under the Licensing Act.

Representatives of the hackney carriage trade had requested a review of the fares they can charge for hackney journeys. As this is, unusually, an Executive function, a report outlining the agreed proposal was endorsed by Licensing Committee and later agreed for advertisement by Executive. The period for objections will close on 8<sup>th</sup> August. If there are no objections the new fares will become effective after 8<sup>th</sup> August.

Since the last Full Council report 2 reviews have been carried out by Taxi Sub Committee, leading to the revocation of an operator licence and suspension of a driver licence. One licensing hearing has taken place in respect of an objection to a Temporary Event Notice and a counter notice served preventing the event taking place.

Targeted interventions continue to be carried out with police colleagues at regular intervals. The outcome is discussed at the Taxi Task Group. The most recent Taxi Task Group was pleased to note an improving trend with vehicle safety, although there are still an unsatisfactory number of vehicles failing to meet required safety standards. The group agreed that the trade reps would continue to work with their colleagues to promote vehicle maintenance requirement as this seems to be having a positive impact. Meanwhile the four month licence regime will remain in place and further targeted interventions will be carried out.

There have been an increased number of complaints in relation to touting, ie private hire vehicles picking up passengers that have not pre-booked. Intelligence is being collected. The team has enforcement work planned. As a pre-cursor to that the police have been provided with information to help them identify unlawful activity, and all licensed Burnley Private Hire Operators have been asked to reinforce requirements with their drivers and warned that, where drivers are found to be unlawfully plying for hire, the consequences will include a review of the driver and/or operator licences.