

Licensing Committee Chair's Report to 7th December 2022 Full Council

Since September's Full Council we have sadly lost a valued well-respected colleague when Jim Astin died suddenly. The Council & taxi trade were greatly saddened by his death.

In October a number of new policies & guidance have been introduced. The new alcohol & entertainment licensing policy came into effect in October. Then at November's Licensing Committee, approval was given to pull all taxi policies into a single document and the street trading guidance was also reviewed.

Licensing Sub-Committee have also been busy with 2 Temporary Event Notice and 4 taxi ply-for-hire issues being considered at hearings. Three current Private Hire Driver licences were revoked and one new application was refused.

The second Taxi Trade Newsletter has been published to all drivers by email, with advice about Town Centre safety in the run up to Christmas. Drivers have been reminded to wear their badges and comply with road traffic rules when picking passengers up at night. The ply for hire enforcement work and targeted interventions of vehicles have continued.

In terms of administrative processes, taxi renewal reminders have moved from letters to email, the number of payments available online has increased and temporary staff cover arrangements have been put in place.

Cllr Jeff Sumner, Licensing Committee Chair.