

Chair of Licensing Report to Council 06.12.23

November's Licensing Committee considered a number of key policy issues relating to Taxis.

Fees were not increased for 2024, but will be reset for 2025 in accordance with the 3yr fee setting policy.

Vehicle safety requirements were amended to include a requirement for manufacturer recall issues to be resolved on renewal, Age limits were reviewed to enable vehicles that continue to meet specific safety and emission standards to remain on the fleet for longer. The intention being to incentivise vehicle maintenance and a transition to a cleaner fleet. In addition to benefitting the community in terms of safety and air quality, it rewards the owners of vehicles who look after their cars. Wheelchair accessible vehicles that continue to meet the safety and emissions standards can be retained on the fleet indefinitely, for the purpose of increasing the number of vehicles available to wheelchair-bound passengers and increase choice. Retaining vehicles on the Burnley fleet means that licensing officers have greater control over taxi & private hire journeys in the Borough.

The DfT issued revised Best Practice Guidance for Taxi & Private Hire licensing to local authorities on Nov 17th, so officers will be carefully considering further policy matters that arise from the document.

Following the revocation of the Premises Licence at Mode, an appeal has been lodged which allows the club to continue to operate. The Bees Knees appeal is scheduled for Nov 30th.

Officers are preparing pre-Christmas compliance activities in and around the town centres to support licence-holders to operate responsibly throughout the festive period, and allow the community to enjoy the variety of entertainment that the Borough has to offer.