

## RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 31 JANUARY 2017  
 title: ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAXI ENFORCEMENT OPERATION  
 submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
 principal author: MAIR HILL

### 1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of the results of taxi enforcement operations.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives - }
- Corporate Priorities - }      Consideration of these issues will promote the Council's aim to be a well-managed Council.
- Other Considerations - }

### 2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Committee will recall that at the Taxi meeting held on 13 September 2016, a request was made by licence holders for joint enforcement operations to be carried out by the Council, the Local Constabulary and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency ("VOSA"). Inspector Goodall who was present at the meeting agreed to this proposal but made clear to licence holders that the operation would apply to all and any licence holders stopped in any operation. This was accepted by the licence holders present at the meeting.

2.2 The Council's Solicitor and Taxi Enforcement Officer subsequently met with the local constabulary and agreed a programme of enforcement operations. These enforcement operations took place during December 2016

### 3 ISSUES

3.1 The first operation took place on 5 December 2016, with the police, the VOSA and the Council's Taxi Enforcement Officer. The result of that operation was that 10 vehicles were stopped and checked. Five Private Hire Vehicles and five Hackney Carriage vehicles, one of which was licensed by Rossendale Borough Council.

3.2 Of the 10 vehicles stopped 8 were satisfactory. The other two were issued with a delayed prohibition and an immediate prohibition notice respectively.

## **Delayed Prohibition Notice**

The vehicle was found to have a spare tyre below legal limit, a headlight not working, a near side brake light inoperative and wheel nut missing. The licence holder was required to have these issues resolved and a new MOT carried out within 4 days. The Council's Taxi Enforcement has confirmed that this was complied with.

## **Immediate Prohibition Notice**

The vehicle was found to have both front tyres below legal limit. It was required to be immediately removed from use. The vehicle was not permitted to be used again until the tyres had been replaced and a new MOT certificate obtained. The Council's Taxi Enforcement Officer has confirmed that this was complied with.

3.3 The second operation took place on Friday 16 December 2016. The purpose of this operation was to identify drivers who were illegally plying for hire. In total 6 vehicles were targeted. Three of the drivers accepted the fare despite it not being pre booked. They were subsequently pulled over and warned. Infringement notices have also been sent to them under the Council's Infringement Notice scheme.

3.4 A press release was issued regarding both the operations and it is intended that further operations will be carried out with jointly with the police on a quarterly basis.

## **4. RISK ASSESSMENT**

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – Resources will be required to: liaise with outside bodies; carry out the operations; take any action necessary as a result; and report further to Committee, the public and licence holders.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Improved control of licence holders should improve public safety.
- Political – No implications identified.
- Reputation – Improved public safety will enhance the Council's reputation.
- Equality & Diversity – no implication identified

## **5. CONCLUSION**

5.1 Note the contents of this report.

MAIR HILL  
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

For further information please ask for Mair Hill, extension 3216

REF: MJH/Licensing Committee/31 January 2017