



LICENSING COMMITTEE

BURNLEY TOWN HALL

18/08/2016 at 6:30pm

Members of the public may ask a question, make a statement or present a petition relating to any matter within the remit of the Committee except those matters relating to Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licence applications and any convictions relating to individuals.

Notice in writing of the subject matter must be given to the Head of the Chief Executive's Office by 5.00pm three days before the meeting. Forms can be obtained for this purpose from the reception desk at Burnley Town Hall or the Contact Centre, Parker Lane, Burnley. Forms are also available on the Council's website www.burnley.gov.uk/meetings.

Under current legislation members of the public can film or record this meeting provided they don't disrupt the meeting.

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the last meeting held on 21st July 2016 also available at (www.burnley.gov.uk)

3. Additional Items of Business

To determine whether there are any additional items of business which, by reason of special circumstances, the Chair decides should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest from Members relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the provision of the Code of Conduct and/or indicate if S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

5. Exclusion of the Public

To determine during which items, if any, the public are to be excluded from the meeting.

6. Public Question Time

To consider questions, statements or petitions from Members of the Public.

7. Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training For Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Drivers and Operators

To consider the introduction of child sexual exploitation (CSE) awareness training for applicants for, and all current holders of, hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver's and operator's licences. (report enclosed)

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

Councillors

Howard Baker
Margaret Brindle
Bill Brindle
Frank Cant
Ida Carmichael
Saeed Chaudhary
Gary Frayling (Vice Chair)
Anne Kelly

Councillors

Mohammed Ishtiaq
Sobia Malik
Liz Monk
Tom Porter
Paul Reynolds
Ann Royle (Chair)
Christine White

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10th August 2016

REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE



DATE	18 th August 2016
PORTFOLIO	Environment
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Child Sexual Exploitation Awareness Training For Hackney Carriage And Private Hire Drivers and Operators

PURPOSE

- For members to approve the introduction of child sexual exploitation (CSE) awareness training for applicants for, and all current holders of, hackney carriage and private hire vehicle driver's and operator's licences.

RECOMMENDATION

- That the Licensing Committee approve the following recommendations;
 - For new drivers and operator's licence applicants - to amend the pre-licence requirements for applicants for Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers or Operators Licences, to require applicants to have completed a child sexual exploitation awareness course as approved by the council, the cost of which will be met by the applicant.
 - To amend licence conditions for existing drivers and operator's licence holders to require all holders of Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers and Operators Licences to have completed a council approved CSE awareness course. There will be no direct cost to existing drivers who complete the course prior to 31st December 2016
 - To recommend to Council an amendment to the Officers Scheme of Delegation to enable the suspension or refusal to renew, as appropriate, of any Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire Drivers and/ or Operators Licence where the holders of such licences have failed to complete a council approved CSE course by 31st December 2016. In such cases, the driver/operator will be offered the opportunity to put forward any exceptional circumstances to the Licensing Committee to show why the licence should not be suspended or why it should not be renewed. The suspension of any licence would continue until such time as a driver/operator is able to complete the CSE training.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- To ensure that all licensed drivers in Burnley are better informed of the issues of child sexual exploitation and people trafficking and are able to contribute in a positive way

to reducing the harm caused to children and other vulnerable persons.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The Council has worked in partnership with the Police and with Burnley college to develop safeguarding training which focusses on CSE awareness and human trafficking.
5. The training takes approximately 2 hours and will be carried out at Burnley College. There will be a variety of timeslots available throughout the day in an effort to accommodate drivers who work varied shift patterns.
6. The training is in line with the Councils corporate priority regarding safeguarding which requires Members & Officers to have similar training.
7. The Rotherham report into child sexual abuse highlights the fact that the safety of the public should be of the uppermost concern of any licensing and enforcement regime and that “there is nowhere more important than in taxi licensing where sometimes vulnerable people are unaccompanied in a car with a stranger”
8. The total cost of training all existing licence holders is £7000. The sum of £2000 has been allocated to the project from the taxi licensing budget, (approximately £3 per head), and discussions are underway with other funding streams including Community Safety Partnership, Police and Crime Commissioners Office, Lancashire Safeguarding Board and the Children’s Partnership Board. It is expected that the total cost of the training will be met from these sources.
9. New drivers will need to provide evidence of this training in support of their application. The cost of that training will be borne by the applicant and will cost approximately £15
10. This approach to CSE training has been developed through the east Lancashire licensing officers group with a view to providing a consistent training provision across the region, and has the approval of the Police and Crime Commissioners Office

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. As per paragraph 8 above

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. N/A

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Discussions regarding the implementation of CSE training have taken place at the last 2 meetings with members of the Taxi Task Group.
The discussion was broadly positive, with elected members and officers supporting the

proposals, although Mr Oakes, the hackney carriage representative strongly opposed the need for training and said that it was the responsibility of the council to deal with child sexual exploitation matters and was not something that taxi drivers should be forced to do. Mr Arif from the private hire association said that he didn't think it was necessary to train drivers.

Trade representatives were asked to put their comments in writing, however, at the time of writing this report no responses had been received.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. Report of Inspection of Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council by Louise Casey CB

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO:

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