

**REPORT FROM: CENTRAL AND REGENERATION SERVICES  
ENGINEERING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER**

**TO: TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**DATE: 9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

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## **PLYING FOR HIRE**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To report the results of plying for hire exercises carried out by the police on 14–15 June 2013 and to agree a further course of action.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (1) That the police be requested to carry out further plying for hire exercises.
- (2) That prosecution proceedings be commenced for any licensed vehicle reported for plying for hire.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

For the safety of members of the public and to allow a level playing field for both the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

### **BACKGROUND**

1. The Hackney Carriage Driver's Association Limited has submitted numerous complaints about the private hire trade plying for hire, particularly in the Barrowford and Colne areas.
2. Enforcement has been carried out by the Taxi Licensing Team but this has proved difficult as once the trade know the team is out vehicles are moved to correct locations for the evening.
3. Due to these difficulties, it was agreed with the police that they would carry out a plying for hire exercise and issue each driver with a warning.
4. This exercise was carried out on the evening of Friday, 14 June 2013 in Barrowford and Fence and on Saturday, 15 June 2013 in Colne.

5. Eighteen warning notices were issued over the weekend – nine to drivers of private hire vehicles and nine to drivers of hackney carriages.

## **ISSUES**

6. The Hackney Carriage Driver's Association has said that plying for hire is still continuing and has asked for the police to carry out more exercises like this.
7. The police are willing to do this but wish to stress that next time the drivers of vehicles will also be reported for no insurance offences and that they will be looking at all plying for hire offences across Pendle as it was evident from the last time that the practice is widespread.

## **CONCLUSION**

8. Following the exercise and from evening enforcement it is evident that plying for hire is widespread across the Borough and is carried out by both sides of the trade. By carrying out further exercises and commencing legal proceedings, this practice will become less prevalent giving the trade an even playing field.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

**Policy:** None arising directly from the report.

**Financial:** There will be a cost for legal proceedings. On any successful prosecution, an application can be made to the court for costs.

**Legal:** None arising directly from the report.

**Risk Management:** None arising directly from the report.

**Health and Safety:** None arising directly from the report.

**Sustainability:** None arising directly from the report.

**Community Safety:** Members of the public need to be sure they are getting into a licensed vehicle and that the vehicle is properly insured to take them to their destination.

**Equality and Diversity:** None arising directly from the report.

## **APPENDICES**

None.

## **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.