

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

TO: TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE

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PLYING FOR HIRE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To agree a further course of action regarding plying for hire following investigations by members of the Committee.

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. This report was deferred from the last meeting to allow members of the Committee to investigate further as to where plying for hire was being carried out and by whom.
2. On 14 and 15 June 2013 the police carried out a plying for hire exercise in Barrowford, Fence and Colne following numerous complaints from the Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association Limited and observations of the Taxi Enforcement Officers.
3. A report was submitted to a previous meeting informing members that the police had issued 18 warning notices: nine to drivers of private hire vehicles and nine to drivers of hackney carriages. The report recommended that the police be asked to carry out further exercises and prosecution proceedings commenced.

4. It was agreed not to prosecute but to ask the police to carry out a further exercise and issue warning notices with the results reported back so it could be seen if plying for hire was being carried out in the same locations and by the same companies.

ISSUES

5. The police were asked to carry out a further plying for hire exercise and issue warnings but they felt that one warning was sufficient and were unable to assist unless prosecution proceedings were commenced for the offences of plying for hire and for no insurance.

CONCLUSION

6. Following the June 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, although costs will be requested from the driver on the conclusion of successful prosecutions.

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 sure they are getting in 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.