

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

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meeting date: TUESDAY, 31 OCTOBER 2023  
title: ANNUAL TAXI MEETING  
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To prepare for the Annual Taxi Meeting.
- 1.2 These proposals support the Council's aim to be a well-managed authority.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The last Annual Taxi meeting took place on Wednesday, 21 September 2022 in the Council Chamber.
- 2.2 31 holders of drivers, operators and proprietors licences attended.
- 2.3 Prior to the meeting, licence holders had been given an opportunity to place items on the agenda for discussion. Similarly, a letter will be sent to operators and licence holders asking them for agenda items for consideration at the 2023 meeting.
- 2.4 In recent years, the meeting has been attended by the Chair of the Licensing Committee together with officers, including the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Council Solicitor, Taxi Licensing Officer, Taxi Enforcement Officer and Taxi Administration Assistant.

## 3 ISSUES

- 3.1 The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for communication between the Council and those holding licences issued by the Council. In past years there had also been attendance by police representatives.
- 3.2 Whilst the meeting takes place annually, Members will be aware that licence holders (and all residents) also have the opportunity to attend before Licensing Committee to raise matters of concern, and/or to contact officers and Members as appropriate.
- 3.3 The next meeting will take place in November or December 2023. However, this will be subject to room availability and also the availability of any invitees (the festive period can be a busy time for the trade).
- 3.4 Members may wish to put forward items for the agenda. Members may also wish to attend the meeting to consider the views of the trade.
- 3.5 Officers have considered items which could be appropriate for discussion at the meeting, which may include the following:
  - a) In the autumn of 2022, Hackney Carriage fares were reviewed for the first time in five years, and raised for the first time in 16 years. It was recommended that there should be an annual review, and this meeting provides a good opportunity

to obtain the views of the trade as part of that process. By statute, there is no formal consultation procedure, except for mandatory press advertising for representations, in response to figures which have been set by the Council.

- b) To establish the views of the trade on increasing the number of Hackney Carriage plates, either by complete removal of the current restriction on the number of Hackney Carriages, or by increasing the number to a new maximum (possibly subject to any new plated vehicles being subject to quality restrictions, such as being wheelchair accessible with appropriate access from the side of the vehicle). The Council currently restricts the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences to 53, 4 of which are fully wheelchair accessible, and 8 of which have elap seats.

3.6 Consideration might also be given to extending invitations to attend the meeting to the police, LCC (who commission many journeys) and representatives of groups representing disabled or vulnerable users.

#### 4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources }  
• Technical, Environmental and Legal }  
• Political } No implications identified.  
• Reputation }  
• Equality & Diversity – }

#### 5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Note the proposed arrangements for the Annual Taxi Meeting

5.2 Advise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services of matters which Members wish to discuss at the meeting, and persons to be invited to assist the Committee at the meeting.

STEPHEN BARKER  
SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.