

**Chief Executives Directorate  
The Business Centre  
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This matter is being dealt with by: Susan  
Robinson  
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Our reference: TL-Der03

Date: 20/06/2016

Dear Mrs Mansell,

### **Rossendale Taxi Procedure Update**

We wanted to update you on the variety of steps we have recently taken in order to address the number of Rossendale licensed drivers and vehicles working in other areas.

Firstly, we have implemented a Hackney Carriage Intended 'Use' policy (adopted at 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 Council). Any applications for a new hackney carriage vehicle licence where there is no intention to use the vehicle predominantly in the Borough of Rossendale are refused. Since this we have also refined and clarified our Intended Use Policy which means that applicants for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence whose address is beyond a 30 mile radius of the designated point in our borough will not normally be granted as it would be reasonably and defensibly presumed that the vehicle will not be predominantly working in the Borough of Rossendale.

We gather evidence in relation to intended use by working closely with other Local Authorities and we consider revoking licenses where there is clear evidence they are predominantly working outside of the Borough through the intelligence provided.

This policy already appears to be working –in Bradford for example it is reported that the number of RBC licensed drivers has almost halved.

As you are probably aware, we regularly conduct enforcement activities to ensure robust compliance to our policy not just in Rossendale but also outside of the Borough for example

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in Manchester, Derby, Leeds, Bradford and Keighley with the Police, VOSA, immigration and other Local Authorities. We are always happy to do enforcement in other areas and respond to such requests.

We have also agreed with our local college, Accrington & Rossendale College, that they will administer, from July 2016, a basic skills test for all new driver applicants which will include a Maths, English (BKSB Level 1 Functional Skills assessments), together with Customer Service, Licensing Policy and Child Sexual Exploitation awareness training. This will help improve standards for all drivers and ensure continued public safety, which is our aim. We propose to roll this out for all existing drivers in due course as a pre-requisite to their renewal application.

We are also investigating additional best practice options to add to our application process including; vehicle age/emissions and CCTV in cabs. We will be bringing a report to our Licensing Committee in July seeking approval to start the consultation on these and other options.

Throughout this process we have sought input from a highly regarded, external licensing expert and we are wholly implementing their advice. We will continue to work with them as we move through the consultation process.

Finally, I would like to assure you that we have a strong Licensing Sub-Committee here at Rossendale and the majority of appeals against their decision not to grant or revoke a licence are upheld by the Magistrates.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter in further detail please contact us and we would be happy to set something up.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alyson Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

**Councillor Alyson Barnes**  
Leader of Rossendale Borough Council

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