

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT

CLLR JIM SMITH

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR- MARTIN EDEN
DATE: 6 OCTOBER 2016**

TAXI – APPEAL AGAINST COMMITTEE DECISION DISMISSED

A private hire driver's appeal against a decision of the Licensing Committee has been dismissed by the Magistrates' Court. The driver had sent inappropriate text messages to a 17 year old female passenger after taking her home from work. The Licensing Committee revoked his licence, and he appealed. The District Judge hearing the case decided that the Committee had acted properly.

This is the fourth appeal against a decision of the Licensing Committee this year; in 3 of the cases the Magistrates Court has dismissed the appeal and supported the Council's decision, with the 4th decision pending.

ALTERNATE WEEKLY COLLECTIONS

Preparations have been made for the introduction of the alternate weekly collection of rubbish and recycling within the borough, which is effective from 3rd October. A planned communications campaign has seen press releases distributed, bus stop posters installed, a promotional video, together with roadshows, radio messages about the service change and also of course the information packs provided to residents. The service will see the burgundy bin move to a collection once every 2 weeks, with the grey recycling bin emptied in the week between the burgundy bin.

PARKING CHANGES

The Council has reintroduced parking charges at weekends from August 2016. Changes to the provision of blue badge parking has seen on-street parking be limited to 3 hours maximum, in line with neighbouring authorities. Further changes are planned, with a new temporary car park at Brown Street Blackburn planned this year, following the development of the bus station in the town centre.

RURAL REFUSE COLLECTION

The refuse collection service from rural properties on a number of unmade and unadopted lanes are changing to a collection point service, because the costs of collecting waste and recycling from the 508 rural properties in the borough are approximately 8 times more expensive. It costs £130 to collect refuse from properties in rural areas compared to £16 in urban areas. To enable a collection in rural areas, the Council is offering to provide the collection point service, at or near, the adopted roadway. The environment officers have been working with residents and meeting with them to understand concerns that have been raised and put in measures to mitigate any problems where possible.

The Council are providing further help where needed such as providing extra bins, extra bin sacks, and changing the collection points if there are valid reasons why current arrangements aren't suitable. Where there are a number of properties using the same, new collection point, there is an option for residents to have larger communal bins, either 660 litre or 1,100 litre bins, provided free of charge. Where residents are in receipt of social care, they can apply to be added to the Council's assisted collection scheme.