

LICENSING COMMITTEE

1.00 P.M.

7TH SEPTEMBER 2023

PRESENT:- Councillors Sally Maddocks (Chair), Margaret Pattison (Vice-Chair), Gerry Blaikie, Martin Bottoms, Erin Hall, Tim Hamilton-Cox and Shelagh McGregor

Apologies for Absence

Claire Cozler and Andrew Gardiner

Officers in attendance:

Jennifer Curtis	Licensing Manager
Daniel Spencer	Lawyer
David Eglin	Licensing Enforcement Officer
Jasmine Elkins	Licensing Officer
Nicola Harrison	Licensing Officer
Claire Helme	Democratic Support Officer

16 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 29 June were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

17 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE THE CHAIR BROUGHT FORWARD ITEM 8.

19 SIGNAGE REQUEST FOR PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE (PAGE 6)

The Committee received the report of the Licensing Manager for the purpose of determination of a Signage request for a Private Hire Vehicle.

Details of the individual case and the Chair's summary of the decision are set out in Minute No. 19.

Decision of the Committee:

The decision of the Committee is set out in Minute No. 19.

20 EXEMPT ITEMS

It was moved by Councillor Hamilton-Cox, seconded by Councillor Blaikie and unanimously agreed:

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, exempt items 6 and 7, on the grounds they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined, in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

Resolved:

That in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, exempt items 6 and 7, on the grounds they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined, in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

21 DETERMINATION OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION OF A DUAL DRIVERS LICENCE HOLDER (PAGES 7 - 8)

The Committee received the report of the Licensing Enforcement Officer for the purpose of determining a dual driver's licence (Hackney Carriage and Private Hire) renewal application.

Details of the individual case and the Chair's summary of the decision are set out in Exempt Minute No. 21 in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Decision of the Committee:

The decision of the Committee is set out in Exempt Minute No. 21.

22 DETERMINATION OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE (PAGES 9 - 10)

The Committee received the report of the Licensing Officer for the purpose of determining a private hire driver's licence renewal application.

Details of the individual case and the Chair's summary of the decision are set out in Exempt Minute No. 22 in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Decision of the Committee:

The decision of the Committee is set out in Exempt Minute No. 22.

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE RE-ADMITTED TO THE MEETING.

WITH THE AGREEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE THE CHAIR BROUGHT FORWARD
ITEM 10

23 DRIVER APPLICATION STANDARDS

The Licensing Manager introduced the report on Driver Application Standards for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers. The purpose of the report is to review the “fit and proper” assessment for taxi driver licences with a view to streamlining the application process. At a meeting of the Taxi Working Group in July 2023 members of the Licensed Trade raised concerns that the length of time taken to become licensed was a barrier to new applicants entering the trade. The Licensing Manager was asked to undertake a review of application standards and provide options to the Committee on how improvements could be made. Members were asked to:

- 1) Consider the options in the report and determine whether or not to amend application processes or standards.
- 2) Consider that by amending or removing parts of the application process it may compromise public safety. All decisions must take into account the protection of the public above all other factors.

Members asked a number of questions on whether the safeguarding tests were mandatory and queried whether the Knowledge Test was as important given the availability of onboard mapping systems to drivers. With regard to the requirement for drivers over the age of 65 to complete an annual DVLA Group 2 medical members queried whether this was necessary given improved standards of health in this age group as it adds to costs and inconvenience for drivers.

The Committee agreed that a decision could not be reached without the report going out for further consultation.

It was proposed by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Hamilton-Cox,

That the Committee defer decision making until after the Taxi Working Group on 19 September and until after public consultation. Members will ask:

- 1) That the Taxi Working Group prepares the questions to go out for consultation on the ‘Keep-Connected’ platform.
- 2) That the Taxi Working Group gives its initial thoughts on proposals with a deadline to report back to the Licensing committee on 16 November.

Resolved:

That the Committee defer decision making until after the Taxi Working Group on 19 September and until after public consultation. Members will ask:

- 1) That the Taxi Working Group prepares the questions to go out for consultation on the ‘Keep-Connected’ platform.

- 2) That the Taxi Working Group gives its initial thoughts on proposals with a deadline to report back to the Licensing committee on 16 November.

24 EXTENSION TO PAVEMENT LICENCE PROVISIONS

The Licensing Manager introduced the report on the Extension to Pavement Licence Provisions. Members were asked to approve the recommendations in the report including the retention of the existing fee of £100 set for the grant of a pavement licence for a further 12 months until 30 September 2024.

Members questioned why a café and public house should pay the same fee of £100 as arguably a public house causes more inconvenience to the public.

It was proposed by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Blaikie and agreed:

“That the recommendations of the report be accepted”

Resolved:

- 1) That the recommendations of the report be accepted.

25 REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY 2023-2028

The Licensing Manager presented the draft Revised Statement of Licensing Policy 2023-2028. The Licensing Act 2003 requires that a licensing authority publish a Statement of Licensing Policy for a five-year period. Lancaster City Council’s Statement of Licensing Policy ‘expired’ in January 2021 but the Covid-19 pandemic impacted the ability of the Council to consult with all relevant bodies.

As part of the consultation process, letters will be sent to all licence holders and other stakeholders, with a request for responses by Monday 30 October 2023. The draft policy will be placed on the Licensing pages of the City Council website and hard copies will be available at the Town Halls in Morecambe and Lancaster.

It was agreed unanimously:

“That the report be noted.”

Resolved:

- 1) That the report be noted.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Democratic Support - email democracy@lancaster.gov.uk**

Licensing Committee – 7th September 2023

To determine a request from Mr Jonathan Gray, licensed driver to place a magnetic sticker on the rear of his private hire vehicle.

The Licensing Service have received a request from Mr Jonathan Gray, a dual licensed driver (private hire and hackney carriage). Mr Gray is the licence holder of private hire vehicle PV519, a grey Ford Tourneo, connect; licensed to carry 6 passengers.

Mr Gray has requested that he is permitted to display a magnetic sign on the rear of his licensed vehicle. The sign is in support of assistance dogs and is designed to raise awareness of taxis being able to carry assistance dogs.

The options available to member were to:

- a) Grant permission to Mr Gray to allow him to display the signage as set out in his request, on PV519, until such time as determined by members.
- b) Reject permission to display additional signage, or
- c) Grant the permission and amend positioning of signage.

The Committee has decided to grant permission to Mr Gray to allow him to display the signage as set out in his request until the expiration of his licence.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted