

LICENSING COMMITTEE

1.00 P.M.

16TH NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT:- Councillors Sally Maddocks (Chair), Margaret Pattison (Vice-Chair), Gerry Blaikie, Martin Bottoms, Phil Bradley, Andrew Gardiner, Erin Hall and Tim Hamilton-Cox

Apologies for Absence

Councillor Shelagh McGregor

Officers in attendance:

Daniel Spencer	Lawyer
Jasmine Elkins	Licensing Officer
Nicola Harrison	Licensing Officer
Sarah Moorghen	Democratic Support Officer

26 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held 7th September were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

27 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of urgent business.

28 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

29 EXEMPT ITEM

It was moved by Councillor Gardiner, seconded by Councillor Bottom and unanimously agreed:

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 item of business, on the grounds it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined, in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

30 DETERMINATION OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION OF A DUAL DRIVERS LICENCE

The Committee received the report of the Licensing 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.30 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 30.

THE PRESS AND PUBLIC WERE READMITTED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

31 APPLICATION STANDARDS - RESULTS OF CONSULTATION

The Licensing Officer presented a report which provided members with the outcome of the public and trade consultation regarding application standards for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers.

It was reported that at the meeting of the Committee on the 7th September 2023 members had considered a report on the Review of Application Standards for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers. Members had been presented with options to consider, including amendments to disclosure and barring certificate providers, training requirements and driving assessments as part of the application process.

It was determined that a period of consultation be undertaken prior to any decision by the Committee.

The Committee was advised that the consultation had run from the 2nd October to the 30th October 2023 and had consisted of a survey of 11 questions.

201 responses had been received plus a further 5 emails. The survey responses and emails were appended to the report for the Committee's consideration.

It was reported that the Licensing Manager had met with Lancaster and Morecambe College who could no longer provide the City and Guilds Level 2 qualification currently required as part of the licenced driver application process but had proposed a bespoke 2-day certificate instead.

Members asked a number of questions in relation to the driver test and the 2 day certificate as well as discussing the driver shortages.

The Committee thanked the Licensing Team for the diligent way they had completed the consultation and presented the findings as well as the work done with Lancaster and Morecambe College.

It was proposed by Councillor Hamilton-Cox and seconded by Councillor Bottoms that;

"The following recommendations be taken to the next Taxi Working Group meeting and those discussions be reported back to the next Licensing Committee meeting for a final decision to be made;

- 1) Adoption of a driving test subject to more details of the test being provided by the Licensing Team.
- 2) Outsource DBS checks on behalf of new and renewal applications for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage driver's licences.
- 3) Adopt the 2-day certification course provided by Lancaster and Morecambe College as a requirement to be completed prior to licensing.

A vote was taken and unanimously carried."

Resolved:

That the following recommendations be taken to the next Taxi Working Group meeting and those discussions be reported back to the next Licensing Committee meeting for a final decision to be made;

1. Adoption of a driving test subject to more details of the test being provided by the Licensing Team.
2. Outsource DBS checks on behalf of new and renewal applications for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage driver's licences.
3. Adopt the 2-day certification course provided by Lancaster and Morecambe College as a requirement to be completed prior to licensing.

COUNCILLOR BRADLEY LEFT THE MEETING AT 3.20PM AND DID NOT RETURN**32 REVISED STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY (2023-2028)**

The Licensing Officer presented a report on the Revised Statement of Licensing Policy (2023-2028) consultation responses.

The Committee was advised that the Licensing Authority was required, every 5 years, to review, consult and publish a Licensing Policy.

It was reported that at a previous meeting of the Committee members had approved a draft policy for consultation and the draft Statement of Licensing was published on the Council's website for a consultation period from 18th September to 30th October 2023.

2 responses had been received and were appended to the report for members consideration.

It was proposed by Councillor Pattison and seconded by Councillor Blaikie and unanimously agreed;

"That the Statement of Licensing Policy be referred to Cabinet for approval with no amendments."

Resolved;

- 1) That the Statement of Licensing Policy be referred to Cabinet for approval with no amendments.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 3.40 p.m.)

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

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