

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Taxi and Private Hire Working Group – Review and Appointment

9 June 2022

Report of the Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To allow for the reintroduction of the taxi and private hire working group, a recognised group tasked with addressing issues affecting the local trade. The purpose of the report is to review the membership of the taxi and private hire working group, confirm the appointment of chairman and set a number of key priorities for the coming financial year.

This report is public.

Recommendations.

- (1) That the Committee review the membership of the taxi and private hire working group, confirm the chairman of the group, and:
- (2) Highlight a number of key priorities for the group to instigate discussions and actions for the coming financial year.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 It was approved at a meeting of the former Licensing Regulatory Committee on 31st August 2017 to establish a taxi and private hire working party.
- 1.2 The taxi and private hire working group was designed to bring together individuals, including elected members, stakeholders and Council Officers who possess the relevant knowledge and skills of the subject area, who will act collectively to undertake assigned tasks and activities to achieve the project's objectives; in this case ensuring the continued review, development and improvement of the Councils taxi and private hire services.
- 1.3 The proposed make-up of the group was approved as follows.
 - 3 elected members from LRC (1 as chairman)
 - Principal Licensing Officer
 - Licensing Enforcement Officer
 - 1 Private Hire rep
 - 1 Hackney Carriage rep
- 1.4 During to the pandemic face-to-face meetings of the working group could not be facilitated, the chairman of the Local Hackney Carriage Association resigned, and no further appointment was made to the position. The last meeting of the group was held via teams on 13th May 2021. The minutes of that meeting are attached at **Appendix 1**.

2.0 Membership

- 2.1 It is important to review the current approved membership and make amendments as appropriate. For example. It may not be a requirement that both the Licensing Manager and Licensing Officer attend all meetings, the numbers of representatives of the licensed hackney carriage and private hire trades can be increased/decreased, as could elected member representation at the meeting.
- 2.2 The Licensing Manager has approached the licensed trade through a global email and item on the trade newsletter requesting expressions of interest in writing to attend the working group for consideration by members.
- 2.3 A number of written expressions of interest were received as set out below, their licence status has been included for consideration. This will ensure both areas of the trade are represented fairly, including private hire and hackney carriage drivers, proprietors, and operators.

Name of Representative	Role in Licensed Trade
Alan Knowles	Hackney Carriage Driver/Proprietor and Private Hire Operator
Chris Lee	Dual Driver and Private Hire Operator
Steven Towers	Hackney Carriage Driver/Proprietor
848848 Taxis Limited	Private Hire Operator
Mark Booth	Hackney Carriage Driver

- 2.4 Members may wish to limit numbers to a workable amount, to allow for active participation and meaningful discussions.

3.0 Service Workplan – Taxi and Private Hire

- 3.1 The 2022/23 licensing workplan includes a number of priorities in terms of taxi and private hire licensing, these matters as a baseline will be discussed by the working party, they include.
- Driver Shortage - recruitment
 - Taxi policy – implementation and future reviews
 - Vehicle testing/booking system
 - Hackney Carriage stand review
 - Hackney Carriage fares – annual review
 - Hackney Carriage and Private hire fees
- 3.2 Matters for discussion/action will require to be prioritised, members may wish to highlight any specific areas or await the first meeting and listen to the views of the trade representatives. The Licensing Manager can advise at that time of any potential barriers to progress with items highlighted.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 The taxi and private hire working group is a useful resource for members, the trade and licensing service to understand the issues affecting the local licensed trade. Together they will work through options available to assist parties and find a resolution that meets the objective of all, with the key being protecting the overriding priority of the licensing regime, public safety.

4.2 The recommendations of the taxi and private hire working group will be reported to Licensing Committee.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

None

Information Services:

None

Property:

None

Open Spaces:

None

S151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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