

Minutes of the Meeting of the LICENSING AND PLANNING POLICY COMMITTEE held on 27 October 2022

PRESENT -

Councillor Steven McCormick (Chair); Councillor Peter O'Donovan (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Steve Bridger, Rob Geleit, Julie Morris, Barry Nash and Peter Webb

Absent: Councillor Neil Dallen, Councillor Liz Frost and Councillor Phil Neale

Officers present: Rod Brown (Head of Housing and Community), Paul Holliday
(Principal Licensing Officer), Sue Emmons (Chief Accountant) and Dan Clackson
(Democratic Services Officer)

15 QUESTION TIME

No questions were received from members of the public.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made by Members in respect of any items of
business on the agenda.

17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee confirmed as a true record the Minutes of the Meeting of the
Committee held on 28 July 2022 and authorised the Chair to sign them.

18 2023/24 BUDGET TARGETS

The Committee received a report informing the Committee of the Council's
revenue budget targets presented to the Strategy & Resources Committee. The
report sought guidance on the preparation of the Committee's service estimates
for 2023/24.

The following matters were considered by the Committee:

- a) **Council Funding:** The Chief Accountant explained that Local Authorities
expect to receive details of their funding settlement for 2023/24 in mid-
December. A grant was received for 2022/23 to support the increase to
the national insurance contribution, but following news of the reversal of
the increase, it is anticipated that similar funding for 2023/24 will be
withdrawn.

Following consideration, the Committee unanimously resolved to:

- (1) **Note the implications of the budget targets presented to Strategy & Resources Committee on 26 July 2022.**
- (2) **Note that any additional new growth items supported by the Committee will need to be fully funded from existing budgets.**

19 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Committee received a report summarised by the following: On 26th April 2022 the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee agreed a draft revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy to be consulted on. An 8-week public consultation ran from 15 July until 9 September 2022, and the Committee are asked to consider the responses and approve a revised policy which can be recommended for adoption by Full Council.

The following matters were considered by the Committee:

- a) **CCTV:** The Principal Licensing Officer explained that the cameras would be specialist equipment and would use encrypted hard drives to store their data. He stated that if CCTV in vehicles became mandated, the Council would be responsible for the ownership and protection of the data. He confirmed there would be no cost to the Council associated with maintaining the data.
- b) **Number of Hackney Carriages in the Borough:** The Principal Licensing Officer confirmed the number of Hackney Carriages in the Borough has halved since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- c) **Black Cab requirement:** It was noted by the Committee that the Council requires license holders to drive London-style Black Cabs. The Committee considered a possible relaxation to the Black Cab requirement. The Principal Licensing Officer stated that the Council has a target number for wheelchair-accessible vehicles, confirming all Black Cabs are wheelchair-accessible, and advised a reduction in the number of Black Cabs could require an equality impact assessment to ensure any change to the policy would not cause anyone to become disadvantaged.
- d) **Date for new licenses and renewals to be ULEV:** The Committee considered that a date be set for when all new licenses and renewals must be Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV). The Principal Licensing Officer advised that consultation would be required before such a date could be set.
- e) **Emissions Report:** It was considered by the Committee that a report on Emissions as a matter of high priority be brought to a meeting of the Committee after a period of 6 months, following public consultation and the consideration of the Climate Change Working Group.

Following consideration, the Committee resolved by majority vote (4 voting for, 2 abstaining, and the Chair not voting), to:

- (1) Consider the responses to the public consultation**
- (2) Agree the adoption of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy as set out in Appendix 2 of the report**
- (3) Agree that minor changes be delegated to the Head of Housing and Communities in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing and Planning Policy Committee and the Director of Environment, Housing and Regeneration**
- (4) Agree that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy as set in Appendix 2 of the report is recommended for approval at Full Council**

The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 8.13 pm

COUNCILLOR STEVEN MCCORMICK (CHAIR)

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