

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in the Coltman VC Room at the Town Hall, Burton upon Trent on Tuesday 17th November 2021.

Present:

Councillors S Gaskin (Chairman), Mrs P Ackroyd, R Faulkner, M Fitzpatrick, H Hall, Mrs J Jones, Ms A Legg, S Sankey, Mrs B. Toon and C Wileman.

An apology for absence was received from Councillors G Allen, D F Fletcher and C Sylvester.

Officers Present:

Mr G McCusker (Interim Solicitor) (Virtual), Mark Rizk (Head of Service), Mrs M Woolley (Enforcement Manager), Mr C Liddle (Licensing Officer) and the Senior Democratic Services Officer.

65/21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

66/21 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business brought forward to the meeting under Rule 12.

67/21 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd November 2021 were approved and signed as a correct record.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P Ackroyd		
Councillor R Faulkner		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		x
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor Ms A Legg		
Councillor S Sankey		
Councillor Mrs B Toon		

68/21 **PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND IMPLEMENTATION OF EMISSIONS POLICY CONTAINED WITH THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY 2019 - 2022**

Members were asked to consider a request from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade in East Staffordshire to reconsider the Emissions Policy currently contained within the Taxi and Private Hire Policy 2019 – 2021.

The Policy states that “Any application for the grant of a renewal of a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle shall not be granted unless the vehicle complies with the current technology. As from 1st April 2022, all licensed hackney carriage vehicles and all private hire vehicles must be fitted with at least a Euro 4 compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a petrol engine, or at least a Euro compliant engine for vehicles fitted with a diesel engine”.

The current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy will shortly be the subject of formal consultation with the trade and the subject of a full report back to the Licensing Committee on any proposed amendments. The revised policy will require Full Council’s approval.

The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade had asked for a delay and reconsideration to the implementation following the financial impact of COVID pandemic and information from other authorities regarding local implementation dates. Appendix 2 circulated with the Agenda showed other authorities vehicle policies.

There are currently 174 vehicles that will not comply by 31st March 2022, with 431 vehicles on the fleet.

Licensing authorities are being urged by Central Government to exercise discretion in dealings with the licensed taxi trade. Their guidance states that: “Licensing authorities should consider ways in which they can use their existing powers to support the trade to continue to operate and provide essential travel”.

The report recommended two options: that the Council temporarily suspend the implementation of Paragraph 19 of the Council’s Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2019 – 2022, which deals with the implementation of the Emissions Policy, until the policy has been renewed, consulted upon and amended in 2022; or

That the Committee may decide not to suspend the implementation of the Emissions Policy.

Resolved:

Members decided not to suspend the implementation of the Emissions policy.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P Ackroyd		
Councillor R Faulkner		
Councillor M Fitzpatrick		x
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor Mrs J Jones		

Councillor Ms A Legg		
Councillor S Sankey		
Councillor Mrs B Toon		
Councillor C Wileman		

Chairman