

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 Monday 18th December 2023.

Present:

Councillors S Hussain (Chairman), Mrs J Jones, Ms A Legg, P Walker, and C Wileman.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M Ackroyd, S Gaskin, P Krupski, Z Krupski and C Whittaker.

Officers Present:

J Teasdale (Head of Legal and Regulatory Services) (via Zoom), M Woolley (Enforcement Team Leader), D Chivers (Licensing Officer), N Bills (Enforcement Officer), N Hussain (Enforcement Officer), A Davies (Principal Democratic Services Officer) and D Caulkett (Democratic Services Officer)

08/23 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

10/23 **URGENT BUSINESS**

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

11/23 **MINUTES**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2023 be 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 S Hussain		Councillor C Wileman
Councillor J Jones		
Councillor A Legg		
Councillor P Walker		

12/23 **MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING GENERAL SUB-COMMITTEE**

Resolved:

That Councillor C Wileman be appointed to replace Councillor S Gaskin on the Licensing General Sub-Committee.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor S Hussain		
Councillor J Jones		
Councillor A Legg		
Councillor P Walker		
Councillor C Wileman		

13/23 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REVIEW 2024 – 2029**

The Report of the Head of Legal and Regulatory Services seeking to review and amend the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy 2019 – 2022 was considered. Appendix 1: Proposed Policy – 2023-2028, Appendix 2: Benchmarking exercise: Comparing the age limits stipulated in neighbouring authorities and Appendix 3: Equality and Health Impact Assessment (EHIA) had been circulated with the report.

The Committee noted that the review sought to review and amend the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy; to incorporate the Department for Transport (DfT) Statutory Standards for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards into the current policy introduced in 2020; to update the policy with reviewed standards and administrative procedures and to seek approval for a consultation exercise to be undertaken on the proposals contained within the report.

The Committee noted the context of the trade when considering this report, in that taxis did not need to be licenced by the Council in order to operate in the Borough (district). Licensed hackney carriages could only pick up fare paying passengers off the street in the area where they obtained a license. But private hire vehicles could pick up anywhere in the United Kingdom, providing (both): It was a pre-booked fare and that the driver, the vehicle, and the operator were all licensed within the same district. Hackney carriages licensed by another authority could operate in the Borough but only if they had a pre-booked fare.

The proposed changes were contained within the report and formed three sections:

- Changes recommended through the Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards first published in June 2020;
- Legislative changes;
- Technical changes to update policy, refine administrative processes and engage the Council’s corporate priorities and targets

Councillors sought assurance that the impact on future staff resources be further referenced and included at paragraph 8.3.3 of the policy.

The reasons for making the decision below were set out in the report.

Resolved:

- 1) That the draft revisions to the Policy, along with the vehicle age options in paragraph 6.2, be consulted upon for 6 weeks;
- 2) That the results of the consultation exercise be brought back before the Licensing Committee prior to making recommendations to Full Council.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor S Hussain		
Councillor J Jones		
Councillor A Legg		
Councillor P Walker		
Councillor C Wileman		

Chairman