

LICENSING COMMITTEE
6 August 2020

Present: Councillor A Atwal (Chair)
Councillors Bettany, Cooper, A J Graves, Hezelgrave, A Holmes,
Hudson, J Khan, Marshall, Pearce, A Pegg, Sandhu, Skelton and
Smale.

In Attendance: Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services
Lucie Keeler – Solicitor – Legal Services
Mike Kay – Head of Environmental Protection, Housing
Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business
Continuity
Tracey Blackwell – Interim Director of Public Protection and
Streetpride
Angela Rawson – Team Leader - Licensing

01/20 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Peatfield

02/20 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/20 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

04/20 Minutes of the Meetings held on 30 January 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record.

05/20 Licensing of Eight-Seater Private Hire Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity presented the report and asked the Committee to consider whether the current vehicle specification

for private hire vehicles required any amendments when being used to consider private hire vehicles designed to carry 8 passengers.

The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity confirmed that the Licensing Department have been asked to consider licensing vehicles designed to carry a maximum of eight passengers plus a driver. Most of these vehicles did not meet the Council's current vehicle specification, due to the size and leg room space for the additional front seat passenger, along with the safety aspect of the passenger being too close to the driver. The purpose of this report was to seek approval of the Committee to bring approval of licensing such vehicles to a Licensing Sub-Committee for consideration. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity reiterated that this process was already in place, and working well, in relation to the licensing of new Hackney Carriages

It was confirmed that any vehicle being brought to a sub-committee for licensing will have been specifically designed to carry eight passengers and will already have met current safety standards and regulations.

It was acknowledged that previously, vehicles designed to carry eight passengers had been licensed with a limit of seven passengers due to the gear change mounting limiting the leg room space for the front middle seat. Confirmation was given that a lot of vehicles designed to carry eight passengers now have the gear shift mounted in the dashboard.

The Licensing Committee discussed how these eight-seater vehicles are currently being licensed in other licensing authorities and then operating in Derby City, hence the need to adopt a process that enables Derby City Council to licensing the eight-seater vehicles ensuring all safety requirements were met.

Resolved to:

- 1. Agree that applications for the following vehicles, which are required to be licensed for 8 passengers, are approved, provided they have not been modified since manufacture: Vauxhall Vivaro, Mercedes Vito, VW Transporter, Ford Transit, Renault Traffic and Toyota Hiace.**
- 2. Agree that applications for other vehicles which are required to be licensed for 8 passengers, which do not meet the current vehicle specification for such vehicles, or that have been modified since manufacture, are referred to the Licensing Sub-Committee for consideration.**
- 3. Agree that the Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity and the Licensing Team Leader be delegated the power to amend the Council's adopted Specification for Private Hire Vehicles to incorporate the requirements for such changes.**

4. **Ensure that all other Council policies relating to Private Hire Vehicles shall apply to such vehicles.**

06/20 Statutory Taxi & Private Hire Vehicle Standards

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride, which was presented by the Team Leader of Licensing, this report outlined the new documentation released, on 21 July 2020, by the Department of Transport (DfT), intended to improve safety for passengers in taxi and private hire vehicles.

The Team Leader outlined some of the main points in this report to the Committee highlighting the frequency on DBS checks for drivers every 6 months and the focus on protecting children and vulnerable persons. It was acknowledged that the new document set out a framework that all Licensing Authorities must have regard to. This included the Licensing Policy being renewed every five years, all decision makers being given sufficient and comprehensive training and a robust complaints procedure being put in place. It was also acknowledged that this new documentation supported joint enforcement agreements between local authorities, so that officers could enforce powers outside their own boundaries. It was confirmed that in Derby most of the recommendations were already in place or in development.

Discussion was held on how all the records could be audited and how statistics would be reported back to the Licensing Committee. It was confirmed that reports would be brought back to the Committee on a regular basis.

Discussion was also held on whether a cross party working group should be set up to oversee all the procedures put in place, progress that was being made, timeframes and partner involvement.

An amendment was proposed that a working group be set up, cross party of Licensing Committee members (1 member per group), which would focus on the delivery of the statutory taxi and private hire vehicle standards with a clear timeframe of delivery for each relevant part of the standard as printed, reporting to each Licensing Committee moving forward, reporting on progress and actions taken by the council until implementation of standards. This was seconded, a vote was taken. The amendment was not carried.

Resolved to note the content of the report

07/20 Taxi Licensing Administration & Compliance Activities 2019/20

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity presented the report providing details on the activities the taxi licensing service had undertaken from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

This information detailed applications processed, compliance tests, penalty points processed, and details of sub-committees held.

Resolved to note the information set out in the report and appendices

08/20 Forward Work Plan for Licensing

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride this was presented by the Team Leader for Licensing. The Committee were briefed on the proposed workplan for activities within the remit of the Licensing Service for the period 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2021. The Team Leader of Licensing gave an outline view of the key deliverables on the forward plan. It was acknowledged that a specific timeline would be incorporated into the workplan, which would then be brought to Licensing Committee, to update the members, of progress made, at regular intervals

Resolved to note the information set out in the report and appendices

09/20 General Licensing Administration & Compliance Activities 2019/20

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Public Protection and Streetpride. The Head of Environmental Protection, Housing Standards, Licensing, Emergency Planning and Business Continuity presented the report providing details on the activities the general licensing service had undertaken from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.

Resolved to note the information set out in the report and attached appendix

MINUTES END