

LICENSING & REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held at the Council Offices, Narborough

MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2022

Present:-

Cllr. Shabbir Aslam
Cllr. Nick Brown

Cllr. Janet Forey
Cllr. Trevor Matthews

Cllr. Michael O'Hare
Cllr. Bev Welsh

Substitutes:-

Cllr. Cheryl Cashmore (in place of Cllr. Roy Denney)
Cllr. David Findlay (in place of Cllr. Chris Frost)

Officers present:-

Caroline Harbour	- Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager
Matt Pickering	- Licensing Team Leader
Sandeep Tiensa	- Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
Nicole Cramp	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer
Katie Saunders	- Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer

Apologies:-

Cllr. Stuart Coar, Cllr. Chris Frost, Cllr. David Clements and Cllr. Roy Denney

256. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman the Democratic & Scrutiny Services Officer invited nominations from the Committee Members for the election of Chairman for this meeting only.

That Cllr. David Findlay be elected Chairman of the Licensing & Regulatory Committee for this meeting only.

257. DISCLOSURES OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

No disclosures were received.

258. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022, as circulated, were approved as a correct record.

259. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING - POLICY AND CONDITION UPDATES

Considered – Report of the Environmental Services Manager, presented by the Licensing Team Leader.

Cllr. David Findlay questioned if the policy regarding the age of vehicles applied to hybrid vehicles.

The Licensing Team Leader advised that the policy was designed to encourage greener younger vehicles into the fleet. Vehicles up to 10 years old be licensed. Blaby District Councils fleet will have all euro 6 type engines by September 2025.

Cllr. David Findlay questioned whether the same policy applied to electric vehicles.

The Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager made members aware that the advice is always changing on electric vehicles and advised that the Licensing team work hard to ensure that our information is kept as up to with government practice guidance.

The Licensing Team Leader advised that it has been incentivised for electric vehicles to join the fleet by now offering a 50% discount on the licensing fee and a 25% discount on the license fee with a ultra-low emission vehicle.

The Licensing Team Leader proposed an amendment to the policy under the vehicle conditions section. Under both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles.

The policy's currently state that 110 brake horsepower is deemed acceptable and believes this should be changed to 120 brake horsepower which is equivalent to 90kw motor output.

Members were supportive of the amendment to the policy.

The Licensing Team Leader proposed an additional amendment, that mandatory Safeguarding training is expanded to the operators. Operators are responsible for dispatching the vehicles to users, therefore they should also undertake safeguarding training as part of the Private Hire Operator Conditions.

In light of the above, the Licensing Team Leader proposed an amendment to the previously agreed Private Hire Operator Conditions of Licence and Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 - 2027 in consultation with the relevant Group Manager.

Members were supportive of the amendment to the above policies.

DECISIONS

1. That the consultation responses be noted and relevant/appropriate alterations be considered.
2. That the updated policies and conditions, including the amendments proposed by the Licensing Team Leader be approved and that they take effect from 1st April 2022.
3. *That delegated authority be given to the Environmental Health, Housing & Community Services Group Manager, in consultation with the Housing, Community & Environmental Service Portfolio Holder and the Chairman of Licensing and Regulatory Committee to make minor amendments to these policies thereafter.

*For the purpose of this section, any minor amendment is an amendment not defined as substantial in section 11.2 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 – 2027.

Reasons:

1. It is appropriate that members of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee review the updated policies and conditions prior to their approval and agreement.
2. This is to ensure that any last minute amendments can be incorporated into the final versions in advance of them taking effect on 1st April 2022.

THE MEETING CONCLUDED AT 5.53 P.M.