

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Vera Tomlinson (Chair), Abdul Amin, John Ballman, Alan Bishop, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Nick Martin, Brian Mattock, Imtiyaz Shaikh, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Nadine Watts and Peter Watts.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Malcolm Davies, Paul Dixon and Garry Perkins.

26. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. Councillor Abdul Amin made a non prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 5 as he had a number of friends in the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade.

27. Minutes

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2019, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

28. Public Question Time

Mr Andy Lucas made comments and asked questions in respect of whether the proposals set out in the report in respect of reviewing the age limits for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles and the requirement for those vehicles to meet emission standards would be applied to all vehicles operated and owned by the Council as well as other public transport vehicles and vehicles undertaking services on behalf of the Council. The Chair responded at the meeting.

Mr Keith Radway asked (a) whether a meeting could be arranged with taxi and private hire trade representatives once it was known how the reduction of emission levels for other types of vehicles, including vehicles used by voluntary sector transport providers, had been agreed by the Council, (b) the rationale for reducing the age of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles and the effect on drivers and operators, and (c) whether the focus of any review should be centred on the ability of vehicles to pass emission tests rather than their age. The Chair responded at the meeting.

29. Consideration to review Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Age Limits and requirement to meet emissions standards

The Committee considered (a) a report of the Council's Licensing Manager in respect of a proposed eight week consultation with the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade in respect of (i) a change to the current age of that licensed vehicles from five years to four years, and (ii) the introduction of a requirement that all taxis and private hire vehicles be required to meet the Euro 6 emissions standards by 2024, and (b) an oral update by the Council's Licensing

Manager in respect of the proposed consultation process.

Resolved – That the Council's Licensing Manager be authorised to undertake an eight week consultation period with the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage trade regarding (a) a change to the current age of that licensed vehicles from are first licensed from five years to four years, and (b) the introduction of a requirement that all taxis and private hire vehicles be required to meet the Euro 6 emissions standards by 2024, and that the results of this consultation be reported back to this Committee for consideration.