

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 29 JULY 2019

PRESENT:- Councillors Vera Tomlinson (Chair), Abdul Amin, Alan Bishop, Paul Dixon, Nick Martin, Garry Perkins, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Vera Tomlinson, Nadine Watts and Peter Watts.

14. Chair's Announcement

The Chair announced that the meeting was re-convened from its adjournment on 25th July 2019.

15. 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. 4 as he had a number of friends in the hackney carriage and private hire trade. Councillor Amin noted that this declaration also applied to the consideration of this item at the previous meeting.

Councillor Garry Perkins made a non prejudicial declaration of interest in respect of Agenda Item No. 4 as he had a number of friends in the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

16. Public Question Time

Mr Andy Lucas asked public questions relating to (i) the licensed capacity of wheel chair accessible Hackney Carriages (where hired as a hackney carriage), as confirmed by their hackney carriage plate, (ii) whether hackney carriages should be permitted to use the front seats for conveying passengers during journeys, where the vehicle has been hired as a hackney carriage, to bring them in line with private hire vehicles and salon car hackney carriage vehicles. The Council's Licensing Manager responded, on behalf of the Chair, at the meeting.

Mr George Berares asked public questions in relation to the numbers and formula used for ascertaining the number of passengers permitted to use a hackney carriage vehicle during any journey as confirmed on the vehicles hackney carriage plate. The Council's Licensing Manager responded, on behalf of the Chair, at the meeting.

Mr George Berares asked a supplemental question in relation to conveying passengers in the front seats of a wheel chair accessible hackney carriage vehicle during journeys where the maximum number of occupants was below the plated capacity. The Council's Licensing Manager responded, on behalf of the Chair, at the meeting.

17. Consideration to introduce conditions to restrict the seating capacity of wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages to the number of rear seats behind the safety partition only and to reflect numbers where a wheelchair user is carried

The Council considered (a) a report of the Council's Licensing Manager setting out proposals for specific conditions in respect of (i) restricting the seating capacity of wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages to the number of seats beyond the safety partition in the rear of the vehicle, and (ii) where a wheelchair is being carried within the vehicle, and (b) the comments of Messrs Berares and Lucas (Hackney Carriage Drivers) in respect of the proposed conditions.

Resolved – (1) That a condition be attached to every licence issued to a hackney carriage vehicle which has a safety partition to the effect of:

(a) Prohibiting passengers from being conveyed in seats in front of the safety partition; and

(b) Imposing limits on the number of passengers conveyed where one or more passengers is a wheelchair user.

(2) That, further to (1) above, the Council's Licensing Manager be authorised, in consultation with the Chair of the Committee, to agree the final wording of (a) and (b) above.

(3) That should a request be received from the Hackney Carriage trade in respect of a review of hackney carriage capacity figures this be brought to the Committee following a consultation with hackney carriage drivers.