

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held virtually on Friday 25 September 2020 at 9:30am.

Present

Councillors Claire Udy (Chair)
Dave Ashmore
Chris Attwell
Jason Fazackarley
Leo Madden
Lee Mason
Robert New (joined at 9:50am)
Scott Payter-Harris (Vice-Chair)
Benedict Swann
Linda Symes
Gerald Vernon-Jackson

5. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Hockaday.

6. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

No interests were declared.

7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 20 February 2020 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 20 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

8. Implementation of amended policy - Magnetic Council Signage on Licensed Vehicles (AI 4)

The Chair took this opportunity to thank the Licensing team for their ongoing work with the Licensing Trade to keep everyone safe.

It was noted that members who are not present for the entirety of an agenda item cannot participate in the voting.

Nickii Humphreys, Licensing Manager, presented the report and read out a deputation by Mr Peter Sutherland. Deputations are not minuted but can be viewed as part of the webcast of the meeting:
<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/licensing-25sep2020>

Members' Questions

In response to questions from members the Licensing Manager and Legal Advisor clarified the following points:

All complaints are investigated. Not random evidence. Hearsay is admissible. It is for the committee to determine the weight it places on the evidence. The trade will have the opportunity to comment.

Complaints regarding taxis licensed outside the city are passed on to the relevant licensing authority. This data is not retained here. The Licensing Manager will look

into developing a reporting mechanism that will allow anonymised data regarding these to be shared with the trade.

Members' Comments

There were no comments.

RESOLVED that the Licensing Committee:

- a. **The Licensing Committee noted the contents of this report as regards to the manufacture and supply of council magnetic livery.**
- b. **Amended the private hire driver, private hire vehicle and hackney carriage vehicle conditions to include the following condition:**
 - i. **The driver/ proprietor shall ensure that the council prescribed vehicle identification livery is affixed to the licensed vehicle at all times the vehicle is available for hire or presented to the Council or its agents for any purpose;**
- c) **That the Licensing Committee approves the amendment of "The Points System" to include a new vehicle breach for failure to display prescribed HCV/PHV vehicle identification livery;**
- d) **That the Licensing Committee note the statutory requirements for notification of charges in relation to the supply of Council signage and give approval to the Licensing Manager to undertake the statutory consultation process;**
- e) **That the Licensing Committee approve the commencement of the use of both company and Council magnetic signage with effect from 1 November 2020;**
- f) **That the use of magnetic signage on licensed vehicles be reviewed by the Licensing Committee after 12 months from the commencement of the use of both company and Council magnetic signage.**

9. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 - Consultation and Review of Hackney Carriage Stands

Ross Lee, Licensing Officer presented the report and Nickii Humphreys read out a deputation by Mr Viv Young.

Paul Darlow, Traffic Network Manager representing the Highways Authority was also present for this item.

Members' Questions.

In response to questions from members, all three officers clarified the following points:

Location no. 7 in Willis Road - the report states there is room for an eight car taxi rank. However as parents drop off and collect children in this road it could be better to leave some spaces for them.

Location no. 6 in Albert Road - The Public Transport Team clearly stated that they don't want taxis to use bus stops when buses are still in service. It's important that buses can get to the stop to ensure that all passengers can get on and off easily. The council does not have a policy giving buses precedence over taxis.

Location no. 8 in Elm Grove - The segregated cycle lane would be a temporary measure. If it was to become permanent, the council should look at the possibility of

installing a taxi rank. The Parking Manager and Highways Designer could be asked to look into whether a taxi rank could be incorporated in the scheme.

The Traffic Signs General Directions specifies the colour and size of taxi rank markings. The rainbow crossing in Duisburg Way signage is for traffic users and would be considered as road art under the regulations.

There has been no consultation with Ward Councillors because there are as yet no firm proposals. If the committee decides to move forward with them this would be publicised in the Members' Information Service and in the News. Ward Councillors would also receive letters.

Members' Comments.

Members expressed concern that people who want to shop in Elm Grove would be disadvantaged by not being able to come by car or taxi. Parking in the side streets is horrendous.

They noted that taxis are a form of public transport and help the council with its aims to reduce car ownership and improve air quality.

It was noted that it might have been useful for Ward Councillors to have been given the opportunity to give their views at this point.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. That the Licensing Committee notes the preliminary advice of both the Licensing Manager and highway authority on individual stand proposals as detailed in Appendix 1 with the following amendment:**
 - **Location no. 7 in Willis Road would be for a six car stand rather than eight.**
 - **Location no. 8 in Elm Grove - the committee feels a temporary taxi rank would be suitable here with the acceptance of the Highways Authority.**
- 2. That the Licensing Manager, together with appropriate officers of the highway authority, be authorised to formulate any final proposals for consideration by the Executive (or appropriate cabinet member/ MIS as may be determined) by no later than 01 November 2020.**
- 3. That, as a consequence to 2 above, it is recommended that the City Solicitor be authorised to subsequently give formal public notice of such final proposals on behalf of the council as appropriate.**

Any Other Business

The Chair asked the committee to note that a report on the Greening of the Licensing Objectives will come to the next meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10:40am.

Signed by the chair, Councillor Claire Udy