

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 1 February 2024

PRESENT:

Councillor Tippetts, in the Chair.
Councillor Moore, Vice Chair.
Councillors Finn, Rennie and Tuffin.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Dr Cree and Tofan.

Also in attendance: Michele Battershill (Lawyer), Rosie Brookshaw-Williams (Democratic Advisor), Steve Foreshaw (Senior Enforcement Officer), Graham Hooper (Senior Officer), Nicola Horne (Environmental Health Manager), Mark Wheeler (Enforcement Officer) and Ian Wills (Senior Lawyer)

The meeting started at 10.01 am and finished at 1.08 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

81. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

82. **Minutes**

The Committee agreed the minutes from the meeting held on 11 January 2024 as a correct record.

83. **Chair's Urgent Business**

The Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Moore as Vice-Chair and thanks were given to Councillor Tuffin for his work as previous Vice-Chair.

84. **Appeal Cases**

There were no updates on any appeal cases.

85. **Number of Certificates of Good Conduct Exemptions Granted**

There was one certificate of good conduct exemptions granted.

86. **Review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2022 and Associated Policies and Conditions**

Nicola Horne (Environmental Health Manager) introduced the report and highlighted the following points:

- a) An Executive Decision had been made to consult on various proposed amendments and a public consultation was carried out between 24 October to 23 November 2023;
- b) The proposed amendments and associated documents were published on Plymouth City Council's website and in addition all councillors, all licensed drivers, vehicle proprietors and operators were consulted as well as a variety of agencies and departments including disability groups, resident's associations and businesses;
- c) A total of 386 responses were received following the public consultation;

The Committee agreed to the following recommendations:

1. That Taxi Licensing Committee after considering the proposed amendments and associated consultation responses received and detailed in the above report in section 4 to 10 & 12, approve the amendments as detailed.
2. The Taxi Licensing Committee consider the proposed amendment and associated consultation responses detailed in section 11 regarding engine size and capacity and approve the proposal as detailed.
3. The Taxi Licensing Committee resolve that all approved proposed changes are inserted into the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and associated vehicle conditions and guidance documents to take effect on 1 April 2024 to allow sufficient time for implementation.

87. **Exempt Information**

The Committee agreed to pass a resolution under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and the public from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 1/2/3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

88. **Confidential Minutes**

The Committee agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 as a correct record.

89. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

The Committee:

- a) Considered all that was said by the driver;
- b) Considered all the information contained within the report;

c) Considered all relevant policies referred to in the report;

d) Asked itself whether it would want a person they cared for or a vulnerable person to be driven in a vehicle driven by the driver.

The Committee agreed to:

I. Not grant the Private Hire Driver Licence.

Councillors Finn and Rennie left the meeting at 12.30 pm.

90. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

The Committee:

a) Considered all that was said by the driver;

b) Considered all the information contained within the report;

c) Considered all relevant policies referred to in the report;

d) Asked itself whether it would want a person they cared for or a vulnerable person to be driven in a vehicle driven by the driver.

The Committee agreed to:

I. Grant the Private Hire Driver Licence.

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