

- (3) Mr Khan referred to his attendance at the last meeting of the Committee at which he asked that the age limit at which vehicles were first registered as private hire or hackney carriage vehicles be removed. He also suggested proposed amendments to the current age limit as an alternative. He acknowledged that he had agreed to submit a report on behalf of the trade with their proposals and stated that he would submit this to the Taxi Licensing Manager next week.

The Committee agreed to consider Mr Khan's report at the next meeting of the Committee.

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th November, 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

20. APPROVED TAXI TESTING GARAGES

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager reported that, following a tender process to appoint an extra Class 7 garage to carry out the testing of licensed vehicles, Bradley Motors, Nelson had been appointed.

It was noted that Bradley Motors had been the only garage to submit a tender. Members were interested in why other garages had chosen not to respond.

The Committee was advised that there was a limited number of garages in the area that provided testing for Class 7 vehicles, one of which was already on the approved list. A better response was received when the two year contract for the testing of all classes of private hire vehicles and hackney carriages was put out to tender.

It was noted that the current contract for the testing of licensed vehicles was due to expire at the end of September 2020. The process to appoint garages for the next two year contract was due to start soon. This would begin with inviting expressions of interest from all MOT garages in Pendle.

RESOLVED

That, when inviting expressions of interest, the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be asked to seek feedback from those who choose to decline the invitation.

REASON

To inform future tender processes.

21. RESULTS OF APPEALS/ PROSECUTIONS

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report which provided information on the decisions of appeals/prosecutions since the last meeting.

22. THE POSSIBILITY OF FEE EXEMPTIONS FOR HYBRID/ELECTRIC VEHICLES

In response to a public question at the last meeting, the Planning, Economic Development and

Taxi Licensing Committee (12.03.2020)

Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report which informed the Committee of the options for fee exemptions for hybrid/electric vehicles.

Members were advised that the law did not allow for a reduction in license fees for different types of vehicles. As a result this could not be offered as an incentive to encourage taxi operators to use hybrid/electric vehicles. To consider this further, other options would need to be explored.

In view of the climate emergency that had been declared in Pendle, the Committee could see the merits in encouraging taxi operators to use hybrid/electric vehicles. However, further information was needed. As the original request had been put forward by the trade it was suggested that they be asked to submit their proposals. At the request of the Committee, Mr Khan agreed to include this in his report referred to at minute 18(3).

RESOLVED

That the report be noted.

23. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

24. OPERATION LATIMER

It was reported that a joint operation with the Pendle police taskforce and the Engage Team had been carried out on 21st February, 2020 during which taxi drivers had been reminded of their responsibility in spotting the signs of and reporting child sexual and criminal exploitation. Vehicle safety checks had also been carried out.

Of the 18 vehicles tested, 13 had been taken off the road for various mechanical faults. Members were provided with a list of the vehicles tested and the faults found.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the operators of all the hackney/taxi companies that had a vehicle(s) taken off the road during Operation Latimer be brought before the next meeting of this Committee for interview.
- (2) That the Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager be asked to notify all operators that, following each spot check, the operators of any failed vehicles will be brought before this Committee for interview.

REASON

To address the problem of poor vehicle maintenance.

25. RESULT OF PLYING FOR HIRE EXERCISES

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report, for information, on the result of plying for hire exercises carried out in August and November 2019. It was hoped that similar exercises could be carried out on a more regular basis.

A discussion was held with regard to potential action for repeat offenders. The Taxi Licensing Manager advised that a review of the Taxi Licensing Policy would be carried out in the future and updated to include reference to repeat offenders having their licence revoked.

In the meantime, individuals could be brought before Committee.

CHAIRMAN _____