

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER, 2022**

PRESENT –

*Councillor K. McGladdery – Chairman (In the Chair)*

**Councillors**

*M. Adnan  
F. Ahmad  
N. Butterworth  
M. Kaleem  
B. Newman  
K. Salter*

**Also in attendance:**

*M. Stone*

**Officers present**

<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Emma Barker</i>	<i>Litigation &amp; Regulatory Lawyer</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



**9. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the Declaration of Interests.

**10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**11. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**12. PROPOSED CHANGES TO VEHICLE TESTING AND SPOT CHECKS**

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report on issues surrounding the high failure rates of taxis during spot checks.

## Taxi Licensing Committee (15.11.2022)

There had been concerns over a number of years over the consistent high levels of spot check failures. Despite many assurances from the trade that improvements would be made, and recent changes to the Policy, the failure rate was increasing.

A spot check in August 2022 resulted in 12 of the 16 vehicles tested (75%) having their licenses suspended due to mechanical faults. The failure rate was worse during a further spot check in October 2022, when 14 of 15 vehicles (93.3%) failed. Details of the faults were provided as appendices to the report.

It was agreed that action needed to be taken to compel improvements to the mechanical standards of vehicles and to make those who conveyed the public more responsible for ensuring every vehicle was fit to be on the road for every journey.

It was felt that several changes were necessary, including changes to the Council's spot check procedures; the frequency of vehicle tests; the introduction of a daily vehicle check sheet; and the requirement for a DVSA MOT to be carried out once a year for all licensed vehicles.

It was recommended that a Member task and finish group be set up to look at the issue in more detail and to consider changes to the Council's current policy.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That a task and finish group of Councillors be set up to consider the policies of the Council necessary to improve the significant failure rates of taxis in order to bring the standard of safety for the public to an acceptable level.
- (2) That the recommendations from the group be taken to consultation, following which a report be brought back to this Committee with the recommendations and consultation responses. The consultation to also include recommendations (a) to (c) below.
  - (a) That the requirement for a daily vehicle check sheet be approved and complied with as set out in the report.
  - (b) That the frequency of taxi tests be increased to three tests a year for all licensed vehicles, with one of those tests to include an MOT.
  - (c) That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee, on the recommendation of this Committee, to amend vehicle age limits for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles be reconsidered, with a view to reverting back to the former limits.

### **REASONS**

- (1) ***The failure rate of vehicles on spot checks is unacceptably low and measures need to be put in place to compel improvements in order to safeguard the public.***
- (2) ***In order for the Committee to be able to consider the recommended policy changes and for a public consultation to be undertaken based on those recommendations.***
- (3) ***To address the significant mechanical defects found in vehicles.***

**13. 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 items of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the items, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person/persons.

**14. INTERVIEWS**

**(a) Report on MA**

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report in respect of MA. MA attended for interview.

**RESOLVED**

That MA's hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence be revoked.

**(b) Report on MK**

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report in respect of MK. MK attended for interview accompanied by his solicitor.

**RESOLVED**

That MK's private hire operator's licence be revoked.

CHAIRMAN \_\_\_\_\_