

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 23RD JANUARY, 2023**

PRESENT –

Councillor K. McGladdery – Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*N. Butterworth
M. Kaleem
B. Newman
K. Salter*

Also in attendance:

Councillor M. Aslam

Officers present

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



15. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- Mr Akram made reference to the decision made at the last meeting regarding potential changes to the Council's current Policy. He asked that a separate meeting with the taxi trade be arranged to consider the matter.

The Chairman advised Mr Akram that, following a previous request, a meeting with the taxi trade had been arranged, but was poorly represented by the trade, with only two members present.

Mr Akram was reminded of the consultation that was underway, which was his opportunity to respond to the proposals. The responses would be collated and discussed at the March meeting of the Committee.

- Mr Saeed and Mr Khan both commented that the need to retake a knowledge test after three months on expiry of a licence had not always been a requirement and asked why this had changed.

Taxi Licensing Committee (23.01.2023)

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that policies changed over time and reminded both Mr Saeed and Mr Khan that Pendle allowed more time for this, in comparison with other authorities.

- Mr Hussain asked a similar question with regard to Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks. He said that it was currently taking up to three months for DBS reports to come through and stated that the trade had previously been allowed three months to deal with any problems.

The Taxi Licensing Manager advised that the suspension of a licence for the DBS status not being up to date had been policy since 2016. Mr Hussain was recommended to keep track of when DBS records were due to expire and advised to apply in good time.

17. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th November, 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18. 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.

19. INTERVIEWS

(a) Report on PAA

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

RESOLVED

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

(b) Report on NI

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

The report provided details of a complaint received, which included a statement from the complainant and two witness statements. The complainant and the two witnesses were also in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED

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

(c) Report on AA

The Planning, Economic Development and Regulatory Services Manager submitted a report in respect of AA. AA attended for interview with one representative.

RESOLVED

- (1) That AA be given a verbal warning and asked to submit, in writing, details of pre MOT checks carried out on all vehicles over the next three months. These to be submitted to the Council by the end of February, March and April 2023 respectively.
- (2) That, should any of the vehicles fail a spot check in the next three months, AA be asked to appear before this Committee for further interview.

CHAIRMAN _____