

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE  
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL  
ON 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

PRESENT –

*His Worship the Mayor Councillor B. Newman  
Councillor F. Ahmad – (Chair)*

**Councillors**

*N. Ahmed (Substitute for N. Butterworth)  
N. Ashraf  
K. McGladdery  
K. Salter*

**Also present**

*M. Adnan*

**Officers present**

<i>Neil Watson</i>	<i>Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services</i>
<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Emma Barker</i>	<i>Legal Services Manager</i>
<i>Joanne Eccles</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>

*(Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Strickland.)*



*The following persons attended the meeting and spoke on the item indicated –*

<i>Mr Saeed</i>	<i>Taxi Safety and Measures to Improve Public Safety</i>	<i>Minute No.10</i>
<i>Mr Ilyas</i>		
<i>Mr Akram</i>		
<i>Mr Hussain</i>		
<i>Mr Ahmed</i>		
<i>Mr Khan</i>		

**7. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

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

**8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Mr Ilyas submitted a petition dated 6<sup>th</sup> September which had 43 signatures notifying Pendle Borough Council that with immediate effect Mr Charles Oakes was not a representative of their trade and the Council should not discuss Pendle hackney matters with them. The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services said that this request would be noted for future representations and meetings.

Mr Khan requested to see the Taxi Licensing accounts which had not been available for the last couple of years. He also asked about the staffing levels in the Taxi Licensing Team. The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services said that the income and expenditure in the accounts were going to be revisited next year. He asked that they be treated with caution as some expenditure related to more than one year. He gave details of the current staffing structure of the Taxi Licensing Team. He acknowledged that the amount of work had increased considerably and that the Team was hoping to get some support to help with the additional work.

Mr Khan also asked if it was possible not to have to bring in the old licence plates when they collected their new license and licence plates. It was explained that this requirement was in the interests of public safety.

## **9. MINUTES**

### **RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## **10. TAXI SAFETY AND MEASURES TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Committee was reminded that in order to make the trade safer for passengers and drivers suggested changes to the taxi policy had been put out to consultation earlier this year. A report which outlined the issues and provided details of the consultation responses had been considered by this Committee in March, and a number of recommendations had been submitted to the former Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

At the request of the former Policy and Resources Committee a Task and Finish Group had been set up to look at improvements to taxi safety. The notes of the Group's meeting held on the 11<sup>th</sup> July were submitted for consideration.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the Task and Finish Group's decision that members of the trade be given a further opportunity to submit, in writing, their proposals for improving taxi safety and the requirement that these be submitted within three weeks of the date of the Group's meeting.

At the time this meeting was called no written proposals had been received. They had since been submitted and circulated prior to the meeting.

The trade was questioned about their opposition to the introduction of an App to record daily vehicle checks, which would cost approx. £1 a week per vehicle compared to £1.50 or £2 per vehicle recording the check on paper. The trade asked that, if the App was introduced, it should be up to individual drivers to decide whether the daily check was recorded on an App or on paper.

There was broad agreement amongst Members that the proposals submitted by the trade were not sufficient to improve the significant failure rates of taxis. It was suggested that they be given one last chance to recommend measures that would improve the roadworthiness of vehicles and public safety at a further meeting of the Task and Finish Group. Any proposed changes to the taxi policy agreed would need to be agreed at a further meeting of this Committee and then Council requested to approve any proposed changes.

## **RESOLVED**

That there be one more final meeting of the Task and Finish Group held in the next couple of weeks to which the Trade be invited and the outcome of that meeting be reported back to an extraordinary meeting of this Committee in 3 weeks' time.

## **REASON**

***To give the taxi trade one last chance to submit a workable system for improvements to taxi safety.***

### **11. HACKNEY CARRIAGE DEMAND SURVEY**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for Members to consider the recommendations of Licensed Vehicle Surveys and Assessment (LVSA) following the completion of the hackney carriage demand survey.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council be recommended -

- (1) To retain the present limit of 71 hackney carriages.
- (2) To agree that nighttime enforcement on the use of hackney carriage ranks and vehicle signage, as highlighted in the report, be carried out.

## **REASON**

- (1) ***The survey has concluded that there is no significant unmet demand.***
- (2) ***The survey reports that private vehicles are parking in some of the ranks in the evening and that signage is not being displayed on some hackney carriages making them unidentifiable.***

### **12. PROPOSED INCREASE IN HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for Members to consider a request from the hackney carriage trade to increase the hackney carriage fares.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Executive be recommended to agree -

- (1) The proposed increase in the hackney carriage fares as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.
- (2) That the proposed increase be advertised in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and should no objections be received the increase be implemented.

**REASON**

- (1) *To approve a request from the hackney carriage trade for an increase in fares.***
- (2) *An increase in the hackney carriage fares must be advertised to consider any objections.***

**13. RESULTS OF APPEALS/PROSECUTIONS**

The Assistant Director Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report regarding the results of appeals/prosecutions which was noted.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_