

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT NUMBER ONE MARKET STREET
ON 25TH JUNE 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillor B. Newman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*F. Ahmad
S. Ahmed
N. Butterworth
K. McGladdery
K. Salter
M. Strickland*

Also in attendance

Councillor R. O'Connor

Officers present

<i>Jackie Allen</i>	<i>Taxi Licensing Manager</i>
<i>Emma Barker</i>	<i>Legal Services Manager</i>
<i>Lynne Rowland</i>	<i>Committee Administrator</i>



1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED

That Councillor M. Iqbal be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2024/25.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meetings held on 19th February, 21st February and 18th April 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE 2023

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for Members to consider the updated Best Practice Guidance issued by the Department for Transport and to consider how to incorporate the updates into Pendle's licensing priorities.

The Guidance was submitted as Appendix 1 to the report, along with a list of proposed action or updates to the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy as a result of the updated guidance.

It was noted that one of the proposed actions was to consider the installation of CCTV for all licensed vehicles.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the proposed actions as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed and a further report be submitted to this Committee with any proposed updates to the Taxi Licensing Policy.
- (2) That a Working Group of this Committee be established to further explore the proposal to consider the installation of CCTV for all licensed vehicles.

REASON

- (1) ***To consider the guidance issued by the Department for Transport to enable the provision of safe, accessible, available and affordable services that meet the wide range of passenger needs by a thriving trade.***
- (2) ***In order to seek the views of the trade.***

6. CONSIDERATION OF THE REMOVAL OF SECTION 5.4 FROM THE TAXI LICENSING POLICY

At the Annual Council Meeting on 16th May 2024, Members considered a motion to remove Section 5.4 from the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy. It was agreed that the matter be referred to this committee, and the Executive, for comment. Any recommendations would then be considered by Council.

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report for consideration. The report explained that Section 5.4 stated that should a licence application for the grant or renewal of a licence be refused, the applicant must wait until a twelve-month period had elapsed before submitting a new application, unless they were compliant with the Council's convictions policy. It was recommended that the 12-month period should also apply to revocations.

A summary of the process for dealing with applications was provided which advised at what stage Section 5.4 came into force.

Members were advised that the process had been operating successfully and the decisions made within the current decision-making scheme had been proved to be sound and robust. However, it was accepted that an element of discretion could be allowed.

It was therefore recommended that Section 5.4 of the Taxi Licensing Policy be amended to include revocations and to read 'Further applications will not normally be granted until 12 months has elapsed from the original refusal/revocation'.

RECOMMENDATION

- (1) That Council be recommended to amend Section 5.4 of the Taxi Licensing Policy to include revocations and to read 'Further applications will not normally be granted until 12 months has elapsed from the original refusal/revocation'.
- (2) That this recommendation be referred to the Executive to add any comments before being referred to Full Council.

REASON

- (1) *To allow for an element of discretion when making decisions on submitted driver's applications.*
- (2) *To enable the Executive to make comments on the recommendation before being submitted to Full Council.*

CHAIR _____