

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT NELSON TOWN HALL
ON 26TH NOVEMBER 2024**

PRESENT –

Councillor B. Newman (In the Chair)

Councillors

*F. Ahmad
N. Butterworth
M. Iqbal
K. McGladdery
K. Salter*

Also in attendance

*Councillor Y. Iqbal
Councillor R. O'Connor*

Officers present

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



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

<i>Mr Khan</i>	<i>Vehicle Age Limits from Councils across Lancashire</i>	<i>Minute No.22</i>
<i>Mr Saeed</i>		

19. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

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

20. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were 70 members of the public present, several of which asked questions as follows –

- The Chairman of the Hackney Carriage Association asked how many hackney carriages there were in Pendle; how many drivers there were; and how many had currently signed up to the App.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that there were 872 existing licensed drivers in Pendle, 149 of which had registered for the App. At this time, the figures could not be separated between hackney carriage and private hire.

Taxi Licensing Committee (26.11.2024)

- The Committee was asked if the fee for the App. of £1 per week, per driver could be guaranteed for the next 20 years. It was confirmed that the fee rate could not be guaranteed in that way.
- One member of the trade advised that he hadn't been notified of this or previous meetings and asked if he could be notified of future meetings. He also asked questions in relation to the introduction of the App. He explained that he understood why it was being introduced but felt that this was an extra financial burden and that the trade was being pushed into a corner. He believed that many drivers would no longer wish to work in Pendle. He asked how many of the 149 that had registered for the App. were actively using it.

It was explained that agendas for all meetings of the Taxi Licensing Committee were publicised and that Member/trade working groups had been held of which all the trade had been notified. Of the 149 that had registered for the App., on average 32 were using it. People were reminded that the App. was being introduced over a six-month period and that the requirement to download the App. did not come into force until 12th February 2025.

- It was asked if the App. was used anywhere else in the country and was confirmed that it was not.
- When asked why a Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand survey had been carried out in 2023 which had led to an increase in fees, it was explained that the survey was carried out at the request of the hackney carriage trade and was agreed that the costs be recovered through the hackney carriage proprietors' licence fee.

Following the questions and comments made, the Committee discussed the issue in more detail. Members had opposing views on the best way forward, with some feeling that the introduction of the App. should be cancelled. It was suggested that the formal introduction of the App. be delayed so that the item could be considered at the March 2025 meeting. This was not agreed.

21. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. VEHICLE AGE LIMITS FROM COUNCILS ACROSS LANCASHIRE

Further to the decision at the last meeting of this Committee, the Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report which provided information on vehicle standards and age limits from across other Lancashire councils.

Members were asked to consider the information with particular focus being placed on any positive/negative impacts to changing Pendle Council's age limit.

Members discussed the implications of changing or removing the age limit with differing views expressed. There was a proposal that the vehicle age limit be removed, but this was not supported by the majority of the Committee.

The information was therefore noted, with no changes made.

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/persons.

24. INTERVIEWS

(a) Report on HS

The Assistant Director, Planning, Building Control and Regulatory Services submitted a report in respect of HS.

HS attended for interview with one representative.

RESOLVED

That HS be issued with 10 penalty points on their private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence and should any further issues result in the penalty points reaching 15, HS be brought back before the Committee.

CHAIR _____