

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**LICENSING AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
20 SEPTEMBER, 2023**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER, 2023 AT
1030 HOURS AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE,
BIRMINGHAM B1 1BB**

PRESENT: - Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair;

Councillors Diane Donaldson, Sam Forsyth, Adam Higgs, Ziaul Islam, Mary Locke, Saddak Miah, Julien Pritchard, Sybil Spence and Penny Wagg

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NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

1546 The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Public-I microsite ([please click this link](#)) and that members of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there are confidential or exempt items.

The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports are available for public inspection via the web-stream.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1547 Members are reminded they must declare all relevant pecuniary and other registerable interests arising from any business to be discussed at this meeting. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared a Member must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation.

If other registerable interests are declared a Member may speak on the matter only if members of the public are allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless they have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', Members do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that they have an interest.

Information on the Local Government Association's Model Councillor Code of Conduct is set out via <http://bit.ly/3WtGQnN>

Licensing and Public Protection Committee – 20 September, 2023

This includes, at Appendix 1, an interests flowchart which provides a simple guide to declaring interests at meetings.

Councillor Phil Davis declared a non pecuniary interest in the item to be discussed at Agenda Item 7 – Update Report on the PRS High Rise Cladding, owing to him being Chair of a Management Company who had successfully removed cladding with the aid of a Government Grant. Councillor Diane Donaldson will Chair the meeting for Item 7.

APOLOGIES

- 1548 Apologies were received from Councillors Jilly Bermingham, Izzy Knowles and Kooner for non-attendance.
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APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER

- 1549 To note the appointment by the City Council of Councillor Jilly Bermingham (Labour) in place of Councillor Iqbal Zafar (Labour) for the remainder of the Municipal year 2023/2024
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MINUTES

- 1550 The public minutes of the last formal meeting held on 28 June, 2023 having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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DFT: STATUTORY TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES STANDARDS ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE: UPDATE DFT: STATUTORY TAXI & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES STANDARDS ACHIEVING COMPLIANCE: UPDATE

The following report of the Director of Regulation & Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document attached)

Emma Rohomon gave a summary of the report giving an update on the previous report to the Committee and progress with implementation of the Guidance and ongoing work.

It was noted at 7.1 of the report that some of the actions in Appendix 1 were awaiting the completion of the new licensing software system.

Members were requested to consider the proposals at 7.8 of the report related to delegation to officers.

1551

RESOLVED:-

- i. that the report be noted; and
- ii. that the proposal in Paragraph 7.8 to delegate to Officers at the level of Principal Licensing Officer or above, consideration of immediate suspension or revocation of licences in the interests of public safety be agreed to ensure compliance with paragraph 5.11 of the Statutory Guidance.

UPDATE REPORT ON THE PRS HIGH RISE CLADDING

At 1050 hours, Councillor Phil Davis previously having declared an interest in this item vacated the Chair.

(Councillor Diane Donaldson in the Chair)

The following report of the Director of Regulation & Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document attached)

Lesley Williams updated the Committee on progress with the Council's response to the remediation of private sector high-rise buildings and background on the work achieved to date, and the plans for the project moving forward, including the new responsibilities for medium rise buildings. Birmingham City Council and West Midlands Fire Service engage with each other to keep the stock safe. The need to ensure that special materials were fit for purpose was highlighted. .

1552

RESOLVED:-

That the content of the report be noted.

(Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair)

UPDATE REPORT ON UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENT

The following report of the Director of Regulation & Enforcement was submitted.

(See document attached)

Mark Wolstencroft and John Jamieson were present for the report updating the Committee on work being undertaken to further manage unauthorised encampments in the City since the last report on the 28 June 2023.

The Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) which sought to identify the need for the community in terms of permanent and transit pitch provision was due to be completed this month. A further update will be provided to the Committee.

Management of the site was a Housing function. Work on Proctor Steet site was due to start in October. There was now an arrangement in place for payments to be made. In response to a question work was ongoing to identify potential land for use. It was requested that any new site was in consultation with residents also that enforcement action would continue. Planning representatives will be invited to attend the next meeting.

In response to comments about the potential use of garage sites, further information was being awaited about their suitability for use as sites.

It was suggested that for future meetings it would be useful to have Planning, Housing and Enforcement in attendance to respond to questions.

John Jamieson undertook to provide more information on the sites. The securing of and cleaning up of sites was still taking place. Councillors asked for timelines related to the sites. Following a further brief discussion it was:-

1553

RESOLVED:-

That the report be noted.

PROSECUTIONS & CAUTIONS – APRIL, MAY, JUNE 2023

The following Report of the Director of Regulation & Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document attached)

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Sajeela Naseer presented the report summarising the outcome of legal proceedings taken by Regulation and Enforcement during the months of April, May and June 2023. Members were welcome to contact officers outside of the meeting regarding individual cases.

The Chairman raised concerns about the lack of regulation regarding vaping. Members were invited to inform officers of hotspots in Wards.

1554 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

CHAIRS AUTHORITY REPORT – MAY AND JUNE 2023

The following report of the Interim Director of Regulation & Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document attached)

1555 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

1556 To note the date and time of next formal meeting on 15 November, 2023 at 1030 hours.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1557 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1558 **RESOLVED:-**

That in an urgent situation between meetings, the Chair jointly with the relevant Chief Officer has authority to act on behalf of the Committee'.

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The meeting ended at 1149 hours.

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CHAIR