

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE 21 SEPTEMBER, 2022

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT 1030 HOURS AT THE COUNCIL HOUSE, BIRMINGHAM B1 1BB

PRESENT: - Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair;

Councillors Diane Donaldson, Barbara Dring, Sam Forsyth,
Adam Higgs, Zafar Iqbal, Ziaul Islam?, Izzy Knowles, Narinder
Kooner, Mary Locke, Simon Morrall and Penny Wagg

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NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

- 1476 The Chair advised that this meeting will be webcast for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's meeting You Tube site (www.youtube.com/channel/UCT2kT7ZRPFCXq6_5dnVnYlw) 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

- 1477 Members were reminded that they must declare all relevant pecuniary and non pecuniary interests relating to any items of business to be discussed at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest was declared a Member must not speak or take part in that agenda item. Any declarations would be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

There were no declarations made.

APOLOGIES

- 1478 An apology was received from Councillor Julien Pritchard for non-attendance.
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MINUTES

- 1479 The minutes of the last meeting held on 29 June, 2022, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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ELECTRIC HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE CONVERSIONS REPORT

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

(See document no. 1)

Chris Arundel, attended the meeting together with Dr Alex Howard. A proposal had been submitted from a company asking Birmingham City Council to consider the licensing of their fully electric hackney carriage vehicle (HCV) conversion within the Birmingham City Council taxi licensing regime.

During the discussion Members asked questions which were responded to. The Committee was advised that all Hackney Carriage Vehicles must be road worthy. In reply to a query there were a number of car charging points around the City also some cheaper options to allow access to charging points.

The Chairman advised that the views of Councillors regarding the principle of revising the age limits would be referred to the Cabinet Member for Transportation. He could request information on the current status around the Clean Air Zone and access for taxi drivers and suggested a briefing for Members.

It would be ensured that the standard of the black cabs considered for conversions were of a high standard. Members would also need to be advised of the cost for the interior of the cab.

During the discussion the Chairman said that he would discuss any comments and questions raised by the Committee with the Cabinet Member. If the principle of conversions were acceptable then a subsequent decision would be made. If Members supported the conversation in principle, further information would be sought from the Hackney Carriage Policy Review. Sajeela Naseer advised that the Hackney Carriage Policy Review was due to be submitted to the next Committee and this would give Members another opportunity to reflect on the issue.

- 1480 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report is noted and that any specific views are emailed to officers for consideration in the upcoming Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy Review.

PSPO FPN - FEES AND CHARGES ADDENDUM REPORT

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

(See document no. 2)

Mark Croxford presented the report to Members. It had been identified that the tariff for fixed penalty notices relating to the failure to comply with a Public Space Protection Order had been omitted from the report brought before the Committee on 9 March 2022.

1481

RESOLVED:-

That the proposed tariff for fixed penalty notices relating to the failure to comply with a Public Space Protection Order is approved to take effect from the 21 September 2022

PROSECUTIONS AND CAUTIONS REPORT – MAY, JUNE, JULY 2022

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

(See document no. 3)

Mark Croxford presented the report. In reply to a comment from Councillor Kooner that it would be useful to share the information as a deterrent for local residents he undertook to share a report with Councillors following the Committee meeting and to include contact details of officers. The Chairman suggested sending the information to the relevant Councillors. Reference was made to some high profile prosecution cases in Birmingham and the difficulties sometimes encountered in securing evidence. Sajeela Naseer suggested that officers should consider how best to share the information.

In reply to a comment from Councillor Izzy Knowles that prosecutions were concentrated in the City Centre rather than locally, Mark Croxford informed that officers were required to witness an offence taking place in order to prosecute. He would be happy to arrange for officers to patrol any hotspots identified by Councillors.

Councillors spoke about littering, the supply of bins and their location. Mark Croxford informed that whilst the supply of bins was not difficult, the servicing of the bins was a problem. Councillor Davis suggested encouraging businesses to take responsibility for bins outside their premises.

In reply to Councillor Kooner noise nuisance must be relevant to the location where you live. Anti Social Behaviour was dealt with by both the police and local authority. New staff were being recruited to deal with ASB.

In reply to a query from Councillor Penny Wagg, Mark Croxford informed that they had been asked take part in a trial for vehicle noise cameras

1482 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT (QUARTER 1) – 2022/23

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

(See document no. 4)

It was noted that ACG Special Awards had been awarded to CENTSA Regional Investigations Team with special mention of Mohammed Tariq, a Senior Trading Standards Officer from Birmingham Trading Standards who also won the highly commended 'Dave Hankinson Memorial Award for Individual Excellence' in recognition of his specific contributions to anti-counterfeiting enforcement work during 2021/22. The Committee placed on record it's thanks to all the officers involved in this work.

1483 **RESOLVED:-**

That the content of the report be noted

CHAIRS AUTHORITY REPORT – JULY 2022

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

(See document no. 5)

Sajeela Naseer advised that the selective Licensing Scheme for 25 Wards had been approved and this would seek to improve standards of housing and make housing more secure and stable. Licensing had an important role to play in enforcement of the scheme and some new staff had been recruited. Not all the Wards in Birmingham could be included however an additional Licensing Scheme for HMO's had been consulted on and a report would be considered at Cabinet in December 2022 or January 2023. The Chair welcomed the progress made and requested that the Committee be kept informed.

1484 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

1485 **RESOLVED:-**

It was noted that the next formal meeting of the Licensing and Public Protection Committee was scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 16 November 2022 with an informal meeting taking place on 26 October 2022.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1486 There was no urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIRMAN AND OFFICERS

1487 **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'.

The meeting ended at 1127 hours.

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CHAIR