

BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

**LICENSING AND
PUBLIC PROTECTION
COMMITTEE
10 NOVEMBER, 2021**

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE HELD
ON WEDNESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER, 2021 AT
1030 HOURS AT BMI, MAIN HALL, MARGARET
STREET, BIRMINGHAM**

PRESENT: - Councillor Phil Davis in the Chair;

Councillors Alex Aitken, Bob Beauchamp, Nicky Brennan,
Adam Higgs, Diane Donaldson, Nagina Kauser, Mike Leddy,
Simon Morrall, Mike Sharpe and Mike Ward.

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NOTICE OF RECORDING/WEBCAST

- 1410 The Chair advised that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast via the Council's internet site (www.civico.net/birmingham) and that members' of the press/public may record and take photographs except where there were confidential or exempt items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 1411 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.

APOLOGIES

- 1412 An apology was received from Councillor Mary Locke for non-attendance.

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBER

- 1413 To note the appointment by the City Council on 2 November, 2021 of Councillor Mike Ward to serve on the Licensing and Public Protection Committee for the remainder of the Municipal year.

MINUTES

- 1414 The public minutes of the meeting held on 8 September, 2021, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
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The business of the meeting and all discussions in relation to individual reports are available for public inspection via the web-stream.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE DELEGATIONS UPDATE REPORT

The following Report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 1)

Sajeela Nasser made introductory comments relating to the report, Councillor Adam Higgs queried whether comparative information from other Local Authorities was available. Following a suggestion from the Chairman it was:-

- 1415 **RESOLVED:-**

- I) That the Committee confirms the delegations to February 2022 and requests a report be brought to Licensing and Public Protection Committee providing comparative information from other Local Authorities to enable a decision to be made on extending the delegations to officers
 - II) That the Committee postpones consideration of the continuation of the measures detailed in Paragraph 6 to this report regarding renewal of Hackney carriage and private hire licences to February 2022.
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STREET TRADING – FEES AND CHARGES REPORT

The following report of Interim Assistant Director of Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 2)

Sajeela Nasser made introductory comments relating to the report during which she indicated that the introduction of the new fee for renewal supported the presumption of renewal and regular inspections. Details of the proposed fees were detailed in Appendix 1. The fees will be reviewed in a year's time. Following a further brief discussion it was

1416 **RESOLVED:-**

- i) That the changes to the Street Trading Service fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 1 be approved to take effect from 1 December, 2021 for all applications for the year 2022/23. .
- ii) That the new renewal application fee detailed in Paragraph 4.6 and Appendix 1 be approved to take effect from 1 December 2021 for all applications for the year 2022/23,

**LICENSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION FINANCIAL MONITORING 2021/22
– QUARTER 2**

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 3)

David Jones made introductory comments relating to the report giving a summary of the report. In response to a query from Councillor Leddy, it was agreed that a written break down of Covid 19 pressures should be prepared. It was confirmed that there were a number of cases of fraud related to Covid 19. A number of people had been charged and investigations were ongoing. There will be a report back to the Committee in due course. In response to the Chairman taxi drivers were returning to the trade however there were other factors eg the age of drivers affecting their decision to return.

1417 **RESOLVED:-**

That the Licensing and Public Protection Committee

- i) Note the latest Revenue budget position at the end of September 2021 (Quarter 2) including Forecast Outturn £0.323m and COVID-19 response implications as detailed in Appendix 1.
- ii) Note the analysis of ring-fenced Licensing expenditure and income set out in Appendix 2
- iii) Note the analysis of ring-fenced grant funded services as set out in Appendix 3
- iv) Note the position on reserves and balances, as detailed in Appendix 4.

BEGGING AT TRAFFIC LIGHTS (COMMUNITY SAFETY)

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

(See document no. 4)

Pamela Powis, Senior Service Manager, Community Safety gave a summary of the report. During the discussion that ensued Councillor Mike Sharpe commented about people begging at Bristol Road and knocking on windows of vehicles. He felt that Modern Day Slavery was a factor. Councillor Simon Morrall stated that the issue should to be looked into. Councillor Mike Leddy spoke about begging at One Stop, Perry Barr and at Snow Hill, City Centre. Action needed to be taken corporately and he hoped that something would be in place before the Commonwealth Games. He also suggested that the Cabinet Member and Senior Officers attend a Committee meeting.

Pamela Powis undertook to take the issues back to the partners on the task group. Modern Slavery was monitored with partners who took appropriate action. She undertook to take the comments made back to West Midlands Police. The Chairman undertook to raise the issue with the Cabinet Member. Following some further discussion it was

1418 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS UPDATE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 5)

Mark Croxford and Guy Chaundy made introductory comments relating to the report. Councillors spoke about the transit sites in their individual Wards. It was reported that the site on Proctor Street had been cleared. The officers undertook to ensure that the repairs had been completed and to make enquiries about the site at Aston Brook Street.

Councillor Mike Leddy placed on record his thanks to Mark Croxford and enforcement officers for their work on this difficult task and building up a good relationships with both the Community and Councillors. Councillor Adam Higgs informed that he had written to the Cabinet Member and Darren Share regarding a review of all parks to see where defences could be improved.

1419 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

REGULATION & ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY REPORT – JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2021 (QUARTER 2)

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 6)

Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director, Regulation and Enforcement and Mark Croxford made introductory comments relating to the report. There was a demand on the Food Enforcement Service however it was early days. An update on the recovery programme will be provided. The Committee noted the highly commendable behaviour of staff in an emergency with a member of staff.

1420 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

PROSECUTIONS AND CAUTIONS – JULY/AUGUST 2021

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 7)

Paul Lankester, Interim Assistant Director, Regulation and made introductory comments relating to the report noting the pressure on the legal team and colleagues owing to delays.

1421 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

CHAIRS AUTHORITY REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

The following report of the Interim Assistant Director for Regulation and Enforcement was submitted:-

(See document no. 8)

1422 **RESOLVED:-**

That the report be noted.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

1423 The date of the next formal meeting to be held on 19 January, 2022 at 1030 hours was noted.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

1424 There was no other urgent business.

AUTHORITY TO CHAIR AND OFFICERS

1425 **RESOLVED:-**

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

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

1426 **RESOLVED:-**

That, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, which includes exempt information of the category indicated, the public be now excluded from the meeting:-

Agenda Item etc.

Relevant Paragraph of Exempt
Information Under Revised
Schedule 12A of the Local
Government Act 1972

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1427 The private minutes of the meeting held on 8 September, 2021, having been previously circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

The meeting ended at 1144 hours.

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CHAIRMAN