

**Extract from the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting of 27 March 2019**

**83. Changes to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy**

**Have Your Say!**

Mr Kevin Fisher, Owner of All The 8's Private Hire Cars, addressed the Committee on a number of points relating to the licensing and livery of private hire vehicles and the emailed communication that was received from Mr Jon Ruder. Mr Fisher requested further clarification on issues he had previously raised. Mr Fisher requested for a personal meeting to be arranged with himself, Mr Ruder and Mrs White to discuss this matter in person so it could be explained fully as he felt very frustrated with regards to the situation.

The Committee thanked Mr Fisher for attending and informed him that the Licensing Officers would be in touch to arrange a future meeting.

The Committee was asked to note a report by Mr Ruder, Licensing, Food & Safety Manager, regarding proposed changes to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in the light of recent operational experience and the 2018 unmet demand survey.

The Licensing Officers recommended to Committee that changes with regards to paragraphs 5.1 to 5.6 be made to the policy to ensure that it remained fit for purpose and responsive to the changing licensing environment.

Mrs White addressed the Committee and highlighted three parts of the report. Firstly paragraph 5.1 Taxi Policy 2019, in response to the recent unmet demand survey report officers have requested that the Council should be able to determine not to allocate or reallocate a Hackney Carriage Plate. Secondly, with regards to paragraph 5.5 Vehicle Testing, Mrs White explained that currently any vehicle can pass a MOT with minor defects, but no time frame is given for correction of those, so officers felt a 7 working day period plus proof of completion of works should be adhered too. Thirdly, the Committee were asked to look at paragraph 5.6 Consultations and Implementation and to request to Full Council that any minor amendments to the policy are delegated back to the Licensing Committee. However, any major changes are still reported to Full Council.

The Committee thanked the Officers for the report but ask them to clarify the 7 working day policy with regards to vehicle testing. What would happen if a driver was unable to book an appointment within that time? Could there be some leniency for those drivers who are unable too.

The Officers confirmed that if a driver was to provide evidence of a booked appointment then it would be possible for the 7 working days to be extended. Further proof of completion of works would need to be shown to Licensing Officers also.

**RESOLVED that –**

- (i) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.1 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- (ii) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.2 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- (iii) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.3 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- (iv) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.4 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy
- (v) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.5 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy but to include some additional wording to help with the flexibility of garage booking issues.
- (vi) the changes, set out in bold at Paragraph 5.6 be made to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and a request to Full Council at the next meeting on the 17 July 2019 for any future minor amendments within the Licensing Policy be made without consultation following consideration by the Licensing Committee.