

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 9th March, 2021.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor J.W. Thomas (Chairman); Councillor O. Griffiths (Vice-Chairman); Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, Mrs. J.E. Charles, R. Crowley, Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, K.F. McCaffer, Mrs. A. Moore, M.J.G Morgan, Mrs. J.M. Norman, Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn, S.T. Wiliam and Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

444 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor Ms. M. Wright.

445 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 15th December, 2020 be approved as a correct record.

446 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

447 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR CONDITIONS (DEH) –

The Licensing Policy Officer presented the report which sought approval to replace and update the current private hire operator conditions following a consultation with the trade.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council's current private hire operator conditions had been in place for many years and in response to new statutory standards published by the Department for Transport, it was thought to be an appropriate time to review the current conditions in an attempt to bring them in line with the new standards. The current private hire operator conditions were detailed at Appendix A to the report, and a draft set of conditions had been produced which detailed the proposed requirements for private hire operators, a copy of which were detailed at Appendix B to the report.

The Licensing Authority had consulted with private hire operators currently licensed by The Vale of Glamorgan Council along with The Vale Taxi Association on the proposed conditions as detailed in Appendix B, with two responses having been received.

Members welcomed the proposed conditions, particularly with regard to additions such as those relating to Disclosure and Barring Service Checks. It was noted that

the low response rate to the consultation indicated that private hire operators had been happy with the revised proposals. It was also clarified that the proposed requirement that drivers have a break lasting at least 30 minutes after driving for 5.5 hours would not nullify the provisions of the Working Time Directive of 1998.

With regard the recommendation by Officers contained within the report, the Chairman suggested that part (ii) of the recommendation, to allow a grace period of 6 weeks for existing private hire operators in relation to compliance with the proposed conditions, could imply something of a 'free for all' with regard to compliance. Having considered the advice of the Principal Lawyer regarding this matter that the recommendations not refer specifically to a grace period in relation to enforcement, Members subsequently

RESOLVED – T H A T the replacement of the current private hire operator conditions with the proposed conditions detailed at Appendix B to the report be approved with immediate effect.

Reason for decision

To ensure that any conditions imposed on private hire operator licences represent statutory standards set out by Department for Transport in the interest of public safety.