

No.

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 27th April, 2021.

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

Present: Councillor J.W. Thomas (Chairman); Councillors Ms. J. Aviet, R. Crowley, Mrs. P. Drake, V.P. Driscoll, K.F. McCaffer, M.J.G Morgan, Mrs. J.M. Norman, S.T. Wiliam and Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson.

582 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors Mrs. J.E. Charles, Mrs. A. Moore, Mrs. R. Nugent-Finn and Ms. M. Wright.

583 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March, 2021 be approved as a correct record.

584 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

585 VALE OF GLAMORGAN'S STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY RELATING TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, DRIVERS AND OPERATORS (DEH) –

The report detailed statutory standards published by the Department for Transport (DfT), along with recommendations published by the Welsh Government in relation to Taxi and Private Hire Licensing and sought approval to create a Statement of Licensing Policy relating to Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators incorporating the statutory standards and recommendations published by DfT and Welsh Government.

The report also detailed the need to consult on a draft Statement of Licensing Policy with the trade and the wider public.

In response to queries raised by Members following the presentation of the report, the Licensing Policy Officer advised of the following:

- The cost of having a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check every six months would be paid by drivers and for this reason all drivers would be encouraged to sign up to the DBS Update Service, which allowed DBS checks to be carried out without drivers having to undergo the application process each time, and came at a cost of approximately £13 per year. The

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Council was working with all other Local Authorities across Wales to identify ways of encouraging drivers to sign up to the Update Service.

- Information regarding drivers could be accessed at any time via the DBS Update Service.
- The reason for publication of statutory standards and recommendations by DfT and Welsh Government, and the proposed creation of a Statement of Licensing Policy was that the existing legislation in this area was very old and required updating. The standards and recommendations published at present were 'quick fixes', but new legislation could be brought later.
- Should a DBS check flag up a new issue with a driver which fell within the Council's suitability guidance, the matter would be brought to Committee in order for them to consider whether the driver was a fit and proper person to hold the relevant license, with the driver potentially also having breached the conditions of their license by failing to inform the Council of any convictions having taken place since their last DBS check within the required time frame of seven days.
- The Council did not currently run DBS checks on its drivers every six months, but it was an approach they were looking to adopt in line with Welsh Government's recommendations.
- Not every driving conviction would show up on a DBS check, for instance while an offence relating to driving under the influence would show up, speeding points on a driver's license would not. Drivers were, however, required to provide a DVLA record upon application so the Council were able to pick up driving convictions not covered by DBS checks.
- Following consultation, it was proposed that a draft policy be brought to Committee for their consideration and, if agreed, it would be Committee who determined the date of its implementation.

Having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the statutory standards published by the Department for Transport (DfT) as well as the recommendations published by Welsh Government in relation to Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle licensing be noted.
- (2) T H A T creation of an all-encompassing Statement of Licensing Policy relating to Hackney Carriage (Taxi) and Private Hire Vehicles, Drivers and Operators incorporating the aforementioned standards and recommendations be approved.
- (3) T H A T a 4 week consultation with the trade and the wider public (including relevant local organisations for example, accessibility groups) on the proposed changes to policy which would be included in draft Statement of Licensing Policy be approved.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.

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(2) To improve public safety and customer service across taxi licensing and to also simplify matters for applicants and licensees by having all the necessary policies and conditions in one place.

(3) To seek the views of the trade and wider public on the changes to current policy/conditions brought about by the DfT and Welsh Government statutory standards and recommendations which will be included in a draft Statement of Licensing Policy.