

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a remote meeting held on 9th April, 2024.

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor P. Drake (Chair); Councillor J.M. Norman (Vice-Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, L. Burnett, V.P. Driscoll, C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, N.B. Marshallsea. M.J.G. Morgan and R. Sivagnanam.

973 ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

974 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE –

This was received from Councillor M.R. Wilkinson.

975 MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

976 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations of interest were received.

977 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BOTH THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CONDITIONS (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager to seek approval to consult with the taxi and private hire trade on the proposed amendments to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions.

The relevant current condition on both hackney and private hire vehicles was detailed in paragraph 1.3 of the report and it was proposed that condition 33 be amended so that vehicle would be accepted for testing for the renewal of a licence up to one month prior to the expiry of the licence, as described in paragraph 2.2 of the report.

This would bring the testing arrangements in line with current MOT procedures for all vehicles. It was thought that this would not only benefit proprietors but will also reduce pressure on the Licensing Section. Officers had consulted with the management at the Alps testing station who support the proposal as it would allow greater flexibility to fit vehicles in for testing when their licence was due to expire.

The Chair asked if any Members of the Committee had questions for the Licensing Team Manager.

Councillor Norman asked about the wording of Section 19(e) of Appendix A which referred to seating which 'must not be sideways facing to the direction of travel' and suggested amending that wording to make it more easily understood. The Licensing Team Manager said that was not part of the proposed changes being requested as part of the report but referred to some buses where seating was not forward-facing. Proposals to standardise taxi testing were expected from Welsh Government concerning vehicle conditions and that point would be taken on board and raised at the relevant time.

No further deliberation, questions or points of clarification were sought by Members.

The Chair then referred to the recommendation within the report and proposed that the Committee accept the recommendation which was subsequently supported unanimously by the Committee.

Having fully considered the matter, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T Officers be authorised to carry out a 14-day consultation with the taxi and private hire trade within the Vale of Glamorgan Council on:

(i) Amending condition 33 of the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence Conditions and condition 38 of the Private Hire Vehicle Licence Conditions:

Inspections

*The vehicle shall be presented for examination on application for a renewal of licence. Vehicles will be accepted for testing for the renewal of a licence up to **one month prior to the expiry of the licence.***

The vehicle shall also be presented for examination on request by the Licensing Authority during the course of the licence.

This condition is without prejudice to the powers in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Reason for decision

In order to consult to amend the amount of time proprietors had to present their vehicle for testing on renewal of licence which would bring the testing arrangements in line with the current MOT procedure for all vehicles.