

LICENSING, ENVIRONMENT & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Meeting: 29 September 2021

At: 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor Alanna Vine (Chair) in the chair; Councillor Matt Wynne (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Shan Alexander, Grace Baynham, Becky Crawford, Dickie Davies,
Dean Fitzpatrick, Chris Gordon and Adrian Nottingham.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes (copies of which had been circulated) of the meeting held on 7 July 2021 were approved as a correct record.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors and Officers were invited to declare any interest that they had in any of the items on the agenda for the meeting.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. URGENT DECISIONS

No urgent decisions were reported.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No public questions were submitted.

5. GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM LICENSING STANDARDS FOR TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE (STAGE 1)

A representative of the Corporate Director (Place) & Deputy Chief Executive submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) which provided asked Members to approve the recommendations relating to Stage 1 of the Greater Manchester Minimum Licensing Standards for Taxi and Private Hire drivers, operators and local authorities.

RESOLVED - The Committee

- (i) Noted the endorsement of the Stage 1 recommendations by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority on 10th September 2021.
- (ii) Approved the adoption of the new policy on DBS criminal records checks in terms increasing the frequency of checks and requiring compulsory sign-up for drivers to the DBS update service.
- (iii) Agreed to retain the Council's current policy on medical examinations for drivers and to relax the requirement for 5 yearly checks after an initial medical assessment

until the age of 45. This is in line with medical requirements for Bus and HGV drivers.

- (iv) Agreed to retain the Council's current policy on driver knowledge tests.
- (v) Agreed to adopt the new policy on the assessment of an applicant's knowledge of spoken and written English.
- (vi) Retain the Council's current policy on driving proficiency tests for applicants whilst noting a new provider.
- (vii) Agreed to adopt the new policy on driver training.
- (viii) Agreed to adopt the dress code policy for taxi and private hire drivers.
- (ix) Agreed in principle to adopting a policy for drug and alcohol testing of drivers subject to content and final approval being agreed at a later date. This will allow the policy to be developed and consultation to commence before being brought back to Members at a later date.
- (x) Agreed a revised set of private hire driver licence conditions which will be consistent across Greater Manchester.
- (xi) Agreed a revised set of private hire operator licence conditions which will be consistent across Greater Manchester.
- (xii) Agreed to adopt the policy on criminal record checks on private hire operators and their staff who have access to booking records.
- (xiii) Agreed a common standard across Greater Manchester for the submission of applications in terms of timescales for determination.
- (xiv) Endorsed proposals for officers to develop a common enforcement approach across Greater Manchester so that the standards can be applied consistently by each Licensing Authority.
- (xv) Endorsed a common methodology for the setting of licensing fees across Greater Manchester, to ensure that administration and enforcement costs are recovered consistently by each Licensing Authority.
- (xvi) Retain and strengthen the Council's current position on Members receiving relevant and timely licensing training, to allow them to make effective decisions in line with relevant legislation, practise and guidance.
- (xvii) Agreed to a review of how the Council makes urgent safeguarding decisions, to ensure that there is always the appropriate and available governance in place to facilitate immediate action against a licence on the grounds of public safety.
- (xviii) Agreed to allow officers to further explore the potential benefits in the introduction of an Excellence in Licensing Award.
- (xix) Bring into force all revised and new policies from 1st December 2021.

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm