
SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2021

Present: Councillors Laurent, Leggett, McEwing, Noon, J Payne and Streets

Apologies: Councillors B Harris, Spicer and Stead

8. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The apologies of Councillor B Harris, Councillor Spicer and Councillor Stead were noted.

9. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

10. **GAMBLING ACT STATEMENT OF LICENSING PRINCIPLES**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes proposing the adoption of the Gambling Act 2005 Statement of Licensing Policy after its triennial review.

Southampton City Council Officer Phil Bates, Licensing Manager was present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED that the draft Statement of Licensing Policy and the revisions made to it in Appendix 2 of the report be recommended for adoption to full Council.

11. **EURO 5 WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE DIESEL HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes proposing an amendment to both the hackney carriage and private hire vehicle policy and conditions to delay by two years the requirement for diesel powered wheelchair accessible vehicles, licensed by Southampton City Council, to be replaced with less polluting vehicles.

Southampton City Council Officer Phil Bates, Licensing Manager was present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED that approval be given to amend both hackney carriage and private hire policy and conditions to delay by two years the requirement for diesel powered wheelchair accessible vehicles, licensed by Southampton City Council, to be replaced with less polluting vehicles.

12. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCE ALLOCATION**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes proposing a policy for the allocation of hackney carriage licences.

Southampton City Council Officer Phil Bates, Licensing Manager was present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED that approval be given to the new policy, as set out in the report, for the allocation of hackney carriage licences, with immediate effect.

13. **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SIGNAGE**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director for Communities, Culture and Homes seeking amendment to the private hire vehicle condition in relation to door signage.

Southampton City Council Officers Phil Bates, Licensing Manager and Russell Hawkins, Senior Licensing Officer; Mr Desmond Broster, NALEO and VEEZU, Mr Clive Johnson, Radio Taxis, Mr Joseph Jones, Door 2 Door Cars Limited, Mr Ian Hall, Southampton Hackney and Private Hire Association, Mr Richard Boyland, Ms Emma Campbell, Mr Ali Haydor, Mr Martin Hayward, Mr Jamilur Rahman, Mr Syed Rahman and Mr Arjan Sahota, Cabmyride, were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

The current policy stated that private hire vehicles are obliged to have permanent door signage which included the operator name and contact information. The Committee heard that this was introduced for public safety reasons but had the effect of limiting a driver to be able to work for one operator at a time. The alternative view was to seek amendment to the conditions removing the display of the operator details which would facilitate drivers to work for more than one operator at the same time. This promoted much discussion around customer safety, driver well being and safety, vehicle security, drivers rushing between jobs, the potential for drivers to cancel jobs leaving passengers at the roadside, the potential for drivers to work too many hours to be considered safe, protection of vulnerable adults and children and the keeping of paper records.

The Panel then considered the recommendation to retain the current policy, as in Appendix 1 to the report. Upon being put to the vote the recommendation was carried.

RECORDED VOTE

FOR: Councillors Laurent, Noon, McEwing and Streets

AGAINST: Councillors Galton and J Payne

RESOLVED that the current policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted.