

No.

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 18th February, 2025.

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 and M.J.G. Morgan.

Also present: Councillor Dr. I.J. Johnson.

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”.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These were received from Councillors H.C. Hamilton and R. Sivagnanam.

MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 10th December, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE FEES (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager, who advised that the report set out the proposed new fees for hackney carriage vehicle licences, private hire vehicle licences, private hire operator licences and hackney carriage / private hire driver licences. The Committee was asked to approve the fees and if objections were received to the proposed changes after a 28-day consultation, by way of a public notice, then the matter would be brought back before the next available Committee meeting so that any such objections may be considered. The Officer advised that the feedback received on the proposed increases in charges was that

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these seemed reasonable. They further advised that the report had been sent to the local taxi trade group, who had been invited to comment and to attend the meeting to make representations, but had declined.

Following their presentation of the report, the Licensing Team Manager advised the following in response to questions and comments from Committee Members:

- Publishing the notice in local newspapers was the legal obligation, however, further actions to publicise the proposed increases were also being undertaken, including placing a notice at the taxi reception, and conducting consultation via email;
- The Council operated a 'dual badge' system, whereby drivers could operate using either a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle;
- Uber drivers were primarily included under the 'private hire vehicles' classification, and were therefore treated in the same way as other taxi drivers under the proposed changes. Drivers for Uber would also need to obtain private hire vehicle licenses.

With no further queries, Committee subsequently

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the proposed licence fees outlined in the report be approved with an implementation date of 1st April, 2025.
- (2) T H A T the Head of Shared Regulatory Services be authorised to carry out the necessary public notice procedure.
- (3) T H A T if objections are received within 28 days of the publication of the notice of the proposed changes to the fees, the matter would come back before the next available Committee meeting, so that any such objections could be considered, modifications could be considered, and a new date for the introduction of the variations could be set.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) To ensure that the Licensing Authority sets the fees on a cost recovery basis in accordance with Section 52 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, and that the costs of such licensing do not present a burden to local taxpayers.
- (2) To comply with Section 70 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- (3) To consider any objections made during the consultation period in accordance with the 1976 Act.