



**MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2019**

Held at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber Area B, Rushcliffe Arena, Rugby Road,
West Bridgford

PRESENT:

Councillors B Bansal, L Howitt, R Mallender, J Stockwood, Mrs M Stockwood,
J Walker and G Williams

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

G Carpenter
P Harris
L Webb

Environmental Health Manager
Senior Licensing Officer
Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES:

Councillors S Bailey, N Begum, R Butler, L Healy and R Hetherington

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jen Walker declared an interest in item 4 of the agenda and stated that she would leave the meeting and not participate in the discussion during the item.

2 Revised hackney carriages and private hire licensing policy 2017 - 2022

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods which asked the Committee to consider the Council's reviewed and updated taxi licensing policy. It was explained that since the existing policy was approved by Council in 2017 and that the proposed revised policy had been updated to reflect the Council's current and future priorities and changes in the legislative landscape in relation to protecting people from harm, promoting health and managing the environment.

It was noted that the key changes to the Council's taxi licensing policy included:

- Changes to the technical requirements relating to licensed taxis including the provision of spare wheels, alternative fuel vehicles (ULEV), signage, general vehicle condition and emissions. In addition, new vehicle applications will only be permitted if the vehicle is registered after 2011.
- Inclusion of a Statement on a Section 167 taxi list in accordance with

Equality Act 2010 which requires local authorities to publish lists of vehicles which are able to carry disabled passengers and assistance dogs. This also places a legal duty on the driver of these vehicles to carry disabled passengers and where necessary an assistance dog without additional charge.

- Process changes for new driver applications which is a service efficiency improvement and requires applicants to pre-register.

Members of the committee asked several specific questions regarding the reviewed policy and made various comparisons to Nottingham City Council who had recently introduced the opportunity for taxi drivers to use electric vehicles. The senior licensing officer explained that Rushcliffe Borough Council did not have the resources or infrastructure to introduce this. It was also questioned if taxi drivers were consulted on the revised policy. The Environmental Health Manager noted that taxi drivers were consulted and only raised concerns that new vehicle applications would only be permitted if the vehicle was registered after January 2011.

It was suggested that a progress report be brought back to the Licensing Committee in twelve months' time in order for wider national changes to be incorporated and for the Council to develop a plan for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles to be more environmentally friendly.

It was RESOLVED that

- a) The policy be approved and recommended to Council for adoption in March 2020.
- b) A progress report be brought back to the Licensing Committee in 12 months' time.

Councillor Jen Walker declared an interest in the following item and left the meeting at this point.

3 To approve the adoption of a new Street Trading Policy

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report of the Executive Manager – Neighbourhoods which asked for the committees' approval of a new Street Trading Policy across the Borough. It was noted that the Council currently permitted street trading on certain "consented streets" which were mostly situated around Trent Bridge. It was explained that the new policy would enable the Council to control all street trading anywhere in the Borough rather than just on the consented streets. It is important to note that the policy would not enable street trading to take place anywhere as the landowner's permission would be required. It would also enable the Council to take action against unlicensed pedlars. For example, officers' would be able to refuse any application that did not meet the requirements of the policy; for example, improved hygiene and environmental standards including the use of single use plastics.

The revised draft Street Trading Policy was put out to public consultation on

In September 2017 and that a total of 5 consultation comments were received which were mainly related to the potential negative impact of the policy on locally run markets which have been developed to drive growth and support the retail economy in our town and village centres. It was explained that this had been noted and as a result the policy had been amended to specifically exempt markets and events accordingly.

It was noted that street traders would have to produce a food hygiene certificate of at least three stars in order to trade and that all nuisance issues would be dealt with by the police.

It was RESOLVED that the street trading policy be approved and be recommended for adoption to Council in March 2020.

The meeting closed at Time Not Specified.

CHAIRMAN