

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 15th February, 2022
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present: Councillor Simon White (Chair)

Councillors:	Graham Hutton	Ruth Wright	June Walklate
	Sylvia Dymond	Andrew Parker	Julie Cooper
	Mark Olszewski	Stephen Sweeney	Trevor Johnson
	Gillian Williams	Gill Heesom	
	John Williams	Jill Waring	

Officers:	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Nesta Barker	Head of Environmental Health Services
	Daniel Dickinson	Head of Legal & Governance /Monitoring Officer

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Resolved: That the Minutes of the meeting, held on 2 November, 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS

There were no declarations of interest stated.

4. PROPOSED TAXI FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2022-23

Consideration was given to a report asking Members to consider the proposed taxi and private hire fees following consultation.

Members' attention was drawn to the table at paragraph 3.1 of the report. Column b was current fees and column d showed the proposed charges. Column c showed charges agreed for 2021/22 but those were not implemented.

Concerns were raised about drivers who were licenced by other Authorities operating in the Newcastle area which diminished the control on regulations and also some drivers were reluctant to do the training.

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Resolved: That the proposed fees for 2022/23 be approved.

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5. TAX CONDITIONALITY CHECKS FOR TAXI DRIVERS, OPERATORS AND SCRAP METAL DEALERS

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of an upcoming introduction of Tax Conditionality Provisions.

Tax checks on applicants and licence holders would come into force from 4 April, 2022.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

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6. CONSULTATION ON TAXI POLICY AMENDMENT FOR NEW DRIVER CRITERIA

Consideration was given to a report seeking Members' consideration as to removing or replacing the BTEC qualification requirement in relation to new taxi driver applicant eligibility.

The BTEC qualification, run by Stoke-on Trent College had been removed from their list of courses in 2021 and Members were asked to consider the Policy's eligibility criteria in respect of BTEC qualifications.

Members were advised that the majority of elements within the BTEC were covered in the Council's Knowledge Test.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That it be noted that one of the current eligibility qualification criteria for new applicants was no longer available in the local area.
 - (ii) That the BTEC requirement be removed from the current policy and that the Council's Knowledge Test, currently in place be used as a replacement, with immediate effect.
 - (iii) That there was no foreseeable detrimental impact arising from the policy change and therefore no formal consultation on this policy change was required.

[Watch the debate here](#)

7. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

Resolved:- That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration if the following matter because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2 and 7 contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972

8. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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Resolved: That, subject to Councillor John Williams being recorded as present at the 15 December meeting, the Minutes of the meetings held on 7th and 15th December, 2021 and 19th January, 2022 be received.

9. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

**Councillor Simon White
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.35 pm