

**LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 28th June, 2022  
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

[View the agenda here](#)

[Watch the meeting here](#)

**Present:** Councillor Andrew Parker (Chair)

Councillors:	Simon White	Sylvia Dymond	Gillian Williams
	Lilian Barker	Ruth Wright	Jacqueline Brown
	Craig Skelding	David Allport	
	Rupert Adcock	John Williams	

**Apologies:** Councillor(s) Joan Whieldon, Gill Heesom and Stephen Sweeney

**Substitutes:** Councillor David Hutchison  
Councillor Barry Panter  
Councillor Trevor Johnson

<b>Officers:</b>	Matthew Burton	Licensing Administration Team Manager
	Geoff Durham	Mayor's Secretary / Member Support Officer
	Anne-Marie Pollard	Solicitor
	Gillian Taylor	Housing Manager
	Michelle Hopper	Environmental Officer

**1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO LICENSING MATTERS**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

**2. MINUTES OF A PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February, 2022 be agreed as a correct record.

**3. MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 June, 2022 be received.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO PUBLIC PROTECTION MATTERS**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

**5. UPDATE ON TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES (SAFEGUARDING AND ROAD SAFETY) ACT 2022**

Members received an update on a new piece of legislation – Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Safeguarding and Road Safety) Act, 2022.

The Act would seek to improve the safety of passengers. Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2 of the report which outlined the main points of the Act.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**6. UPDATE ON TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES (DISABLED PERSONS) ACT 2022**

Members received an update on a new piece of legislation – Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles (Disabled Persons) Act, 2022.

The Act would seek to reduce discrimination against disabled people by addressing barriers they faced in accessing taxis. Members' attention was drawn to paragraphs 2.1 to 2.7 of the report which outlined the amendments made to the Equality Act, 2010.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

**7. TAXI BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report informing Members of a recent consultation carried out by the Department for Transport (DfT) in relation to their Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Best Practice Guidance.

Members' attention was drawn to paragraph 2.2 of the report which outlined five areas that the DfT considered to be most contentious. Paragraph 2.4 outlined other proposals which officers found to be contentious or that required clarification.

Attached at Appendix A was a copy of the consultation responses which had been sent to the DfT.

A query was raised as to whether this was advisory or mandatory.

Members were advised that it was advisory, the Government was suggesting what should be looked at.

Once the final Best Practice document was published, it would be brought back to this committee where Members would be asked for their comments upon areas which would affect the Council's policy and to make any required changes to it.

A question was asked regarding tinted windows which were referred to at section 8 under paragraph 2.2. This Council had, in the past refused vehicles for having tinted windows. Could this Committee advise drivers not to bring vehicles to be licenced that had tinted windows.

The current Policy had provision within it that the Council did not accept vehicles with tinted rear passenger windows that let in less than 35% transmission of light. Where vehicles had factory fitted tinted privacy windows not allowing in that amount of light, the driver would have to either choose another vehicle or change the windows.

The number of current licensed vehicles was queried as opposed to pre-pandemic.

The number had reduced from 900 vehicles across the fleet to around 700. These numbers had started to decrease before the pandemic.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## **8. PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER PUBLIC CONSULTATION UPDATE**

Consideration was given to a report seeking Member support to initiate a six week public consultation on two Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO's) in Newcastle following ongoing reports of anti-social behaviour.

Attention was drawn to paragraph 2 which set out proposed prohibitions.

Members were referred to Appendices 1 and 2 which set out the PSPO's.

Following the consultation, the PSPO's would be brought back to this committee to consider comments and requirements. A further consultation would then take place before being brought back for approval of the final documents.

It was stated that this was an ongoing issue that needed enforcement. Restrictions had been placed in the past and the question was asked – who enforced them. The police were needed in the town centre and the parks to enforce the PSPO's.

A query was raised as to when PSPO's first came out.

They were introduced as part of the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act, 2014. The Council first implemented the PSPO's in 2019.

**Resolved:** That public consultations be carried out for the two Public Space Protection Orders for Newcastle Town Centre and Queen Elizabeth Park.

[Watch the debate here](#)

## **9. 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

## **10. MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the meetings held on 9 February, 2 March, 25 May and 8 June be received.

**11. APPEALS UPDATE**

Members received an update on appeals against Council decisions.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

**12. DRINK SPIKING**

Members received a report regarding drink spiking.

**Resolved:** That the contents of the report be noted.

**13. URGENT BUSINESS**

Members were asked for their availability to attend a Public Protection Sub-Committee on 13 July.

Members were asked for their availability to attend other Public Protection Sub-Committee meetings by way of a rota being drawn up for afternoon and evening availability.

Members were reminded of the training session being held on 14 July, 2022

**Councillor Andrew Parker  
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.07 pm