

LICENSING & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 17th September, 2024
Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

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Present:	Councillor Joan Whieldon (Chair)		
Councillors:	Barker MBE Heesom Skelding	Adcock Dymond J Williams	G Williams Brown
Apologies:	Councillor(s) Johnson, Sweeney, Wright, Allport and Whitmore		
Substitutes:	Councillor David Hutchison (In place of Councillor Trevor Johnson) Councillor Andrew Parker (In place of Councillor Stephen Sweeney)		
Officers:	Matthew Burton Geoff Durham	Licensing Administration Team Manager Civic & Member Support 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 30 July, 2024 be agreed as a correct record.

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

There were no declarations of interest stated.

4. **GUIDANCE ON SUITABILITY - CONSULTATION**

Consideration was given to a report regarding a consultation into the Suitability Guidance for taxi and private hire licensing by the Institute of Licensing. The consultation opened on 10th July and would end on 30th September.

Members' attention was drawn to Appendix B – the Officers' proposed response to the consultation.

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The Chair stated that it was important when infringements of minor offences were mentioned that the definitions were clear and asked if a glossary of terms and definitions with the report.

The Licensing Administration Team Manager referred to chapter 4 which differentiated between minor and major motoring offences.

The Chair referred to the appendix 'Guidance on Recording Decisions, Reasons and NR3S Criteria' stating that it was a helpful document for anyone making such decisions.

- Resolved:**
- (i) That the contents of the report be noted; and
 - (ii) That the officer proposed consultation response be sent to Government prior to the closing date.

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5. TAXI APPEALS UPDATE

The Licensing Administration Team Manager updated members on the recent taxi licensing appeals.

Members commented and officers responded as follows.

Councillor Gill Williams asked a question regarding paragraph 2.2. Could the driver who no longer held a licence in Newcastle still operate within the Borough?

The Licensing Administration Team Manager stated that, unfortunately he could because drivers were not limited to the area that they worked in and could cross borders. This was the reason why the NR3S was brought in so that, if a decision had been taken to refuse or revoke a licence every local authority was duty bound to check the register before issuing a licence.

Councillor Parker congratulated officers on the costs of £3,316 being awarded to the Council.

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

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6. DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION

There were no confidential items.

7. URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

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**Councillor Joan Whieldon
Chair**

Meeting concluded at 7.27 pm