

Licensing Committee (Non Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

Date: 24 July 2025

Time: 3.00pm

Venue Virtual

Members: **Councillors:** McGregor (Chair), Cattell (Deputy Chair), Pickett (Opposition Spokesperson), Bagaeen, Czolak, Davis, Galvin, Helliwell, Hewitt, Lyons, Nann, Parrott, Sheard, Sykes and Thomson

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AGENDA

PART ONE

Page

18 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declaration of Substitutes: Where Councillors are unable to attend a meeting, a substitute Member from the same Political Group may attend, speak and vote in their place for that meeting.

(b) Declarations of Interest:

- (a) Disclosable pecuniary interests
- (b) Any other interests required to be registered under the local code;
- (c) Any other general interest as a result of which a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting you or a partner more than a majority of other people or businesses in the ward/s affected by the decision.

In each case, you need to declare

- (i) the item on the agenda the interest relates to;
- (ii) the nature of the interest; and
- (iii) whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest or some other interest.

If unsure, Members should seek advice from the committee lawyer or administrator preferably before the meeting.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public: To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

NOTE: Any item appearing in Part Two of the Agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls.

19 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

7 - 10

Minutes of the previous meeting held on 6 February 2025.

20 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

21 CALLOVER

- (a) All agenda items will be read out at the meeting and Members invited to reserve the items for consideration.

- (b) Those items not reserved will be taken as having been received and the reports' recommendations agreed.

22 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions presented to the full council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 July 2025;
- (c) **Deputations:** to receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 18 July 2025.

23 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by councillors:

- (a) **Petitions:** to receive any petitions submitted to the full Council or at the meeting itself;
- (b) **Written Questions:** to consider any written questions;
- (c) **Letters:** to consider any letters;
- (d) **Notices of Motion:** to consider any Notices of Motion referred from Council or submitted directly to the Committee.

24 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

To consider items to be submitted to the [insert date] Council meeting for information.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 24.3a, the Committee may determine that any item is to be included in its report to Council. In addition, any Group may specify one further item to be included by notifying the Chief Executive no later than 10am on the eighth working day before the Council meeting at which the report is to be made, or if the Committee meeting take place after this deadline, immediately at the conclusion of the Committee meeting.

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The closing date for receipt of public questions and deputations for the next meeting is 12 noon on the fourth working day before the meeting.

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Infra-red hearing aids are available for use during the meeting. If you require any further information or assistance, please contact the receptionist on arrival.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact Francis Mitchell, (01273 291354, email francis.mithcell@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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Therefore, by entering the meeting room and using the seats in the chamber you are deemed to be consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for the purpose of web casting and/or Member training. If members of the public do not wish to have their image captured, they should sit in the public gallery area.

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- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building, but move some distance away and await further instructions; and
- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON-LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

3.00PM 6 FEBRUARY 2025

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors McGregor (Chair), Pickett (Opposition Spokesperson), Bagaeen, Davis, Gauge, Hewitt, Sheard, Sykes and Thomson

Apologies: Councillors Cattell and Lyons

PART ONE

17 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Alexander was present in substitution for Councillor O'Quinn.

(b) Declarations of Interest

1.2 There were no declarations of interests in matters listed on the agenda.

(c) Exclusion of Press and Public

1.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any of the items listed on the agenda.

1.4 **RESOLVED:** That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items on the agenda.

18 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

18.1 RESOLVED: The minutes of the Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Functions) Meeting held on 10 October 2024 were agreed.

19 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

19.1 The chair informed the committee that the first Licensing Summit had taken place in January 2025 and thanks was given to all. The summit opened questions across the city by acting as a pre-engagement prior to a full consultation to be started after annual council in May 2025. The chair also considered that the nighttime economy of the city, including the music scene required protecting and reinvigorating. The committee were reminded of the new, and extensive, policy to protect women. The chair noted that the city was generally a safe space.

20 CALLOVER

20.1 The Democratic Services Officer stated the items on the agenda and the following were called for discussion by the committee:

- Item 16: Taxis & Private Hire Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Consultation

21 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

21.1 There was none for this meeting.

22 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

22.1 There was none for this meeting.

23 TAXIS & PRIVATE HIRE WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE CONSULTATION

23.1 The Hackney Carriage Officer introduced the report to the committee.

Answers to committee Member questions

23.2 Councillor Pickett was informed that there were no clear records of wheelchair access. Demand was monitored by talking to operators and it was noted that demand had dropped off since summer 2024. The number of accessible vehicles was unlikely to drop, and no accessible vehicles were being asked to be cut. The chair confirmed that reviews were regular.

23.3 Councillor Bagaeen was informed that the 20% accessible vehicles was agreed at a recent meeting, and one operator had suggested the percentage. The 15 years agreement for accessible electric vehicles was suggested as the electric vehicles were considered to require less servicing and should last longer than petrol vehicles. Currently after 10 years vehicles are checked every 6 months, and this will be the same for electric vehicles. Currently 45% of Hackney carriages are accessible and 20% of private vehicles.

23.4 Councillor Hewitt was informed that there were two major operators in the city and all operators should provide wheelchair access.

23.5 Councillor Sykes was informed that the total number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in the city was not known. The chair noted the fleet was surveyed every 5 years. It was noted the 2010 and 2022 acts ensured drivers would assist wheelchair users with no extra charge. Those not complying could be prosecuted.

23.6 Councillor Sheard was informed that the proposed changes were for both Hackney and Private vehicles. It was noted that the issue of taxis being in bus lanes was an ongoing issue for the enforcement team. The councillor was also informed that taxis records were regularly looked at.

23.7 Councillor Pickett was informed that the wheelchair accessible vehicles were trained and reviewed, after three years they would be re-trained.

Vote

- 23.10 A vote was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to agree the recommendations.

23.11 RESOLVED:

- 2.1 That Members agree the following:
- 2.2 Remove the requirement for Operators to have 20% of the fleet wheelchair accessible when their fleet reaches 100 vehicles.
- 2.3 To be considered suitable to hold a Brighton & Hove Operator Licence, operators must provide wheelchair accessible services to disabled passengers in wheelchairs.
- 2.4 Allow proprietors with a compulsory wheelchair accessible vehicle who are unable to drive a wheelchair vehicle due to a medical or physical reason to transfer their compulsory wheelchair accessible vehicle and then be issued new plate for a Compulsory Fully Electric, Plug in Hybrid or Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.
- 2.5 Wheelchair accessible vehicles may exceed the normal age limit for a maximum of 4 years until 1st April 2027.
- 2.6 Fully electric vehicles to be licensed up to 15 years from date of first registration.

24 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

- 24.1 There were no requests for any items to be referred to full council.

The meeting concluded at 3.42pm

Signed _____ Chairman

Dated this _____ day of _____

