

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

3.00PM 28 JUNE 2018

COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors O'Quinn (Chair), Morris (Deputy Chair), Hyde (Opposition Spokesperson), Bennett, Cattell, Cobb, Gilbey, Horan, Lewry, Marsh, Page, C Theobald, Wares and West

Apologies: Councillor Lizzie Deane

PART ONE

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

(a) Declarations of Substitutes

1.1 Councillor Pete West was present in substitution for Councillor Lizzie Deane.

(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 be not excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items contained in the agenda.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Licensing Committee (Licensing Act 2003 Functions) Meeting held on 1 March 2018 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

3.1 The Chair announced that following the decision to refuse renewal of Uber's Private Hire Operators Licence, Uber had appealed the decision and a pre-trial review date had been set for the 5th November 2018.

- 3.2 An implementation date for the new vehicle emission standards for 1st applications and replacement vehicles had been set for the 1st September 2018.
- 3.3 It was announced that BHCC was currently engaged with the taxi trade over the installation of electrical charging points within the City. It was clarified that presentations were given by Paul Richardson in recent Taxi Trade meetings establishing this area of technology was developing as an efficient and cost saving energy utility. It was stated that BHCC had secured funding for residential electrical charging points from the Government's Officer for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) and a report for the residential electric vehicles charging point report would be considered by the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee on the 26th June 2018. It was noted that BHCC were to install up to 50 black taxis free of charge which would be used to retrieve data and provide recommendations for charging points. It was confirmed that this installation would be used to launch a funding bid for the implementation of taxi rank electric vehicle charging points anticipated for March 2019.
- 3.4 Rebecca Sidell, Lawyer, gave a brief update regarding the appeals against refusal to grant Hackney Vehicle Licenses. She clarified that all relevant personnel had attended court prepared to give evidence however in light of the overwhelmingly strong case against them, their barrister convinced the appellants to withdraw their case with costs awarded to the Council. It was concluded that a deputation may come to the Licensing Committee in future.

4 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

4a Petitions

- 4.1 There were none.

4b Written Questions

- 4.2 There were none.

5 MEMBER INVOLVEMENT

5c Petitions

- 5.1 There were none.

5d Written Questions

- 5.2 There were none.

6 HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER ENFORCEMENT AND MONITORING

- 6.1 Martin Seymour, Hackney Carriage Officer, gave a brief overview of the report highlighted various points of information such as setbacks with staff having long term illnesses, there was an increase in enforcement work, most difficult cases would be brought to new members for discussion in regards to a course of action.

- 6.2 Councillor Cattell enquired what the rules in regards to satellite navigation were.
- 6.3 Martin Seymour confirmed that all taxi drivers had to sit the knowledge test, he further clarified that satellite navigation was used to begin the route however that in all cases, drivers would have adopted the shortest route to the destination.
- 6.4 Councillor Morris gave an example of having to provide directions for a taxi driver in the past.
- 6.5 Jim Whitelegg, Regulatory Services Manager, encouraged members to report any incidents.
- 6.6 The Chair enquired if train times were being worked around.
- 6.7 Martin Seymour confirmed that there was no specific report available yet but that efforts to monitor evening times were being made.
- 6.8 Councillor Page referred to page 13 and enquired if the 6 vehicles in Surrey Street could be a police matter.
- 6.9 Martin Seymour stated that the cars were stationary on the side of the road and that these had been cleared away, he emphasised that cars would move as soon as enforcement were present.
- 6.10 Jim Whitelegg stated that the parking enforcement contractor were to respond to complaints within the hour, he further clarified that Civil Enforcement Officers would be the ones to deal with parking. He responded to the specific situation by stating that this was a tough situation and gave an example of areas clearing once enforcement had arrived. He concluded by stating that he had written to all Hackney Carriage drivers setting out the parameters of acceptable practice and had noted an improvement as a result.
- 6.11 Councillor West, on behalf of Councillor Lizzie Deane, stated that officers were not attending inspections at the right hours; the reality was that taxis were congesting often and a lot. The Councillor enquired if measures were active or reactive as they did not particularly relate to residents. Finally a constituent's complaint regarding a licensed taxi fly tipping was given.
- 6.12 Jim Whitelegg stated that in regards to fly tipping, taxis could be provided with a fixed penalty notice by 3GS. He confirmed that he had not received any complaints from residents in regards to Surrey Street in roughly a year.
- 6.13 The Chair referred to page 15 and stated that the hours between 10am – 2pm were critical within the City and enquired if more were planned to conduct late night operations.
- 6.14 Jim Whitelegg confirmed that evening operations looked to be taking place later in the year however potential issues surrounding upcoming gigs remained.

6.15 **AGREED** - That Members note the contents of this report and that officers should continue to take action as appropriate.

7 ITEMS REFERRED FOR COUNCIL

7.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 16:45pm.

Signed

Chairman

Dated this

day of