

LICENSING COMMITTEE (REGULATORY)

Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee (Regulatory) held on Wednesday, 9 July 2025 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.30 am

Committee

Members Present:

Cllr P Fisher
Cllr A Brown
Cllr P Porter

Cllr J Boyle
Cllr E Spagnola (Acting Chair)
Cllr C Ringer

Officers in Attendance

Environmental & Leisure Business Services Manager (ELBSM)
Legal Officer (LO)
Democratic Services Manager (DSM)
Democratic Services Officer (DSO)

Also in attendance:

Members of the Public

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr D Birch (Chairman)
Cllr M Batey
Cllr K Bayes
Cllr T FitzPatrick
Cllr N Housden
Cllr L Withington
Cllr K Leith
Cllr C Rouse
Cllr M Taylor

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Cllr Batey, Cllr Bayes, Cllr Birch, Cllr Housden, Cllr Leith, Cllr Rouse, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Withington and Cllr Fitzpatrick.

2 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Members confirmed they had received the representations from the NNTPHA Secretary and following a question from the Chair, that they had no questions arising from those representations.

3 MINUTES

Cllr Boyle proposed, and Cllr Porter seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting 22nd January 2024. **It was resolved** unanimously to approve the minutes as a correct record.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None

6 DRAFT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY AND HANDBOOK

Cllr Ringer presented the report, noting this draft document was the culmination of a number of months of work by Officers, 2 rounds of public consultations and discussions with representative of the trade. He thanked Officers, Consultees and the representatives of the trade for their efforts. He invited the ELBSM to provide the Committee with further information.

The ELBSM presented the draft handbook to the Committee and confirmed that one of the main reasons for rewriting the handbook was to address accessibility issues, removing legal jargon and following the principles of Plain English.

She highlighted that standards and policies in this arena must consider the 4 licensing objectives as a priority and in this handbook more emphasis was placed on safeguarding practices.

The ELBSM outlined the consultation process including monthly meetings with the trade representative and informed the Committee that this provided valuable insight and led to key amendments including update to the knowledge test, revised guidance on the carriage of dogs, changes to documentary evidence required for vehicle renewals and other operational improvements.

She brought the Committees attention to a new quick guide document which aimed to provide highlights of the main document to the reader.

Cllr Ringer proposed, and Cllr Brown seconded the recommendation that the Committee agree and recommend adoption of the Taxi and Private Hire Policy and Handbook 2025 v5.1 to Full Council, with effect from 1st September 2025.

It was resolved unanimously to accept the recommendation

The meeting ended at 10.38 am.

Chairman