

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Remote Zoom Meeting**

6<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**Present** – Councillors Myers (Chairman), Handley, Harbron, Heseltine, Jaquin, Madeley, Moorby, Mulligan, Solloway and Whitaker.

**Officers** – Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer), Legal Services Manager, Licensing Manager, Senior Democratic Services Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 7:07pm

Councillor Jaquin joined the meeting at 6.32pm.  
Councillor Madeley joined the meeting at 6.37pm.

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 were confirmed.

### **Minutes for Report**

LIC.238

#### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer read out statements to Committee from Mr John Pickering and Mr M Shahban urging a delay in the implementation of CCTV in licensed vehicles as the trade had been severely affected by Covid-19 restrictions resulting in drivers struggling financially.

LIC.239

#### **SUMMARY OF DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE DURING THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) submitted a report informing the Committee of the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. The two decisions relevant to the Licensing Committee were in respect of hackney carriage and private hire vehicle testing and pavement licensing. These decisions would ordinarily have been made or confirmed by this Committee.

**Resolved** – That, the urgent decisions made by the Chief Executive (or his authorised deputy) between the 26<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020, as set out in paragraph 3.6 of the report now submitted, are noted.

LIC.240

#### **REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF GROUP 2 MEDICAL ASSESSMENT**

The Licensing Manager submitted a report asking Members to seek Member approval to continue with temporary arrangements until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 to enable Grade 2 Medical Assessments to be undertaken by any qualified medical practitioner should the Licensing Manager be satisfied that it would not be reasonable to expect the assessment to be carried out by the applicant's own GP.

The Taxi Licensing Policy stated that Group 2 Medical Assessments had to be completed by the applicant's own GP. However, due to Covid-19 it had not always been possible for applicants to see their own GP having an impact on new drivers and renewals. Therefore, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee, urgent temporary measures were put in place

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until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2020 to resolve those issues and details were set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted.

Due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic and various localised restrictions, the Committee was asked to agree to extend the temporary arrangement until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**Resolved** – That, approval is given for Grade 2 Medical Assessments to be carried out by any professionally qualified medical practitioner until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 in the event that the Licensing Manager is satisfied in any particular case that it is not reasonable to expect the assessment to be carried out by the applicant's own GP.

LIC.241

**INTRODUCTION OF MANDATORY CCTV (TAXI CAMERA) IN  
LICENSED VEHICLES**

Further to Minute Lic.236-19/20, the Licensing Manager submitted a report asking Members to consider and agree upon the timescale for the introduction of mandatory CCTV in licensed vehicles as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whilst acknowledging the need to approve an implementation date, Members were mindful of the down turn in business the Covid-19 pandemic was having on the taxi trade and the resultant financial hardship. In approving an implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, Members felt that the date should be reviewed in the New Year taking into account the latest Covid-19 situation and economic climate and, it was

**Resolved** – (1) That, mandatory CCTV in currently licensed vehicles is implemented with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021, subject to review in the New Year should the Covid-19 pandemic situation continue to affect economic recovery and the resultant financial implications for the taxi trade.

(2) That, there is a requirement for all new vehicle licence applications received from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 to be subject to a requirement for taxi cameras to be fitted to the vehicle.

(3) That, the Policy as set out in Appendix A to the report now submitted, in respect of CCTV in licensed vehicles is approved.

LIC.242

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman brought to Members attention the current state regarding the licensing of caravan sites and holiday homes and he suggested that Licensing Committee could undertake a review ensuring the licensing regime was fit for purpose, best practice was being followed and the process was transparent and open. The Council's Licensing Solicitor agreed to discuss the situation with relevant officers and bring forward an interim report to the next meeting of this Committee.

Chairman.