



Leicester  
City Council

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE LICENSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY  
COMMITTEE**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2019**  
**TIME: 5:30 pm**  
**PLACE: Meeting Room G.03 - City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester,  
LE1 1FZ**

**Members of the Committee**

Councillor Hunter – Chair  
Councillor Pickering – Vice Chair  
Councillor Singh Johal – Vice Chair

Councillors Cank, Fonseca, Gee, Dr Moore, Dr Sangster, Shelton and Thomas.

Members of the Committee are summoned to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for The Monitoring Officer

**Officer contact : Angie Smith**  
*Democratic Support*  
*Leicester City Council*  
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ  
(Tel. 0116 454 6354)  
Email: [angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk)

## Information for members of the public

### Attending meetings and access to information

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- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

### Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Angie Smith, **Democratic Support on (0116) 454 6354** or email [angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:angie.smith@leicester.gov.uk) or call in at City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 454 4151**

## **PUBLIC SESSION**

### **AGENDA**

#### **FIRE/EMERGENCY EVACUATION**

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as Directed by Democratic Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members are asked to declare any interests they may have in the business on the agenda.

#### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Appendix A  
(Pages 1 - 4)**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 are attached and the Committee will be asked to confirm them as a correct record.

#### **4. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any petitions submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

#### **5. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer to report on the receipt of any questions, representations and statements of case submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

#### **6. TAXI STRATEGY - CONSULTATIONS**

**Appendix B  
(Pages 5 - 26)**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submits a report to inform the Committee of the forthcoming vehicle consultation. Members are recommended to comment on the draft consultation.

#### **7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**





Leicester  
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Minutes of the Meeting of the  
LICENSING AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 22 OCTOBER 2019 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T:

Councillor Hunter (Chair)  
Councillor Singh Johal (Vice Chair)

Councillor Fonseca

Councillor Gee

Councillor Shelton

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**12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cank, Dr. Moore, Pickering and Dr. Sangster.

**13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any interest they may have in the business on the agenda.

There were no declarations.

**14. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 be approved as a correct record.

**15. PETITIONS**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

**16. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE**

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations and

statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

## **17. PAVEMENT CAFÉ LICENSING - POLICY REVIEW**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report which sought the views of the Committee on the forthcoming consultation on pavement café licensing. Members were recommended to comment on the café licensing policy and any changes that might be appropriate.

The Chief Licensing Officer presented the report. It was noted the Deputy City Mayor had approved a public consultation on what would be a light touch review of the policy. It was reported that currently all pavement café licences expired on 31 May each year. It was proposed to amend this to licences expiring 12 months after date of issue subject to consultation responses. The consultation would run online for one month and affected businesses would be contacted and invited to participate.

Members noted the proposed amendment to the pavement café licensing policy and had no further comments to make.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report and draft consultation paper be noted.

## **18. TAXI STRATEGY - CONSULTATIONS**

Members of the public present were asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the agenda item.

RESOLVED:

that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following report, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because it involved the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraph detailed below of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, and taking all the circumstances into account, it was considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

Paragraph 3

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority hold that information).

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report to inform the Committee of the forthcoming driver consultation and to seek

views on the private hire operator consultation. Members were recommended to comment on the draft consultation.

The Chief Licensing Officer presented the report. It was noted the draft consultation would be submitted to the Deputy City Mayor for approval, together with the comments of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee.

The Chief Licensing Officer went through the proposals and noted comments made by Members.

During consideration of the report, Members requested that Passenger and Transport Services (PATs) be invited to the meeting of the Committee on 11 February 2020 to provide information on how they award and run school contracts.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report.

RESOLVED:

that

1. The contents of the report and draft consultation paper be noted.
2. The comments of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee be fed back to the Deputy City Mayor.
3. That PATs be invited to the meeting of the Committee on 11 February 2020 to provide information on how they award and run school contracts.

## **19. PUBLIC SESSION**

Members of the public were invited back to the meeting.

## **20. TAXI STRATEGY - UNMET DEMAND**

The Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services submitted a report to inform the Committee of the need for a survey of unmet demand for hackney carriages. Members were recommended to note the report.

The Chief Licensing Officer presented the report. It was noted that the Council currently limits the number of hackney carriage licences that it issues. It was stated that a survey of unmet demand was necessary to justify maintaining, amending or removing the limit. It was further noted that if the survey found no unmet demand, it may justify retaining a limit on the number of hackney carriages.

The survey would involve observing taxi ranks to see if queues of people awaiting taxis showed unmet demand and vice versa. It was reported there were a number of changes to the locations of taxi ranks planned, and by changing the location of taxi ranks, it would take a while for the situation to level out due to customers potentially being unsure of where the permanent ranks were located. It was therefore proposed to take the survey before

changes to rank location were made.

In response to Members' questions, an external organisation would be procured to undertake the survey, and samples would be taken on different times, and different days of the week to gain a true picture of demand.

The Chair thanked the officer for the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## **21. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 6.08 pm





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**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

**LICENSING & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

**10 December 2019**

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## **TAXI STRATEGY – CONSULTATIONS**

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### **Report of the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services**

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the forthcoming vehicle consultation.

#### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The taxi strategy involves a review of all of the council's policies and procedures in relation to taxi licensing. This is being taken in phases in order to make to task more manageable.
- 2.2 In July and October 2019 the Committee gave it's views on the proposed driver and operator consultations respectively. The next phase is about licensing of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

#### **3. Licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles**

- 3.1 Hackney carriages are licensed under the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and private hire vehicles are licensed under the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976. The council's existing policies and procedures have not been reviewed for some time. It is appropriate to review them to ensure they reflect current legislation and best practice, and thereby allow the council to fulfil its obligations as a licensing authority.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1 Officer have reviewed the council's current policies and procedures. Draft proposals for consultation are attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 The draft consultation will be submitted to the Deputy City Mayor for approval, together with the comments of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee.

**1. Recommendation**

4.1 Members are asked to comment on the draft consultation.

**5 Financial & Legal Implications**

**Financial Implications**

5.1 No significant financial implications for the Council are expected to arise from the consultations described in the report.

*Colin Sharpe, Deputy Director of Finance, ext 37 4081*

**Legal Implications**

5.2 Section 37 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 governs the licensing of Hackney Carriage vehicles. Section 47 of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 provides that the Local Authority may upon the grant of a Hackney Carriage under the Act of 1847 attach conditions that they consider reasonably necessary and enable the Local Authority to make policy guidelines determining the design or appearance of the vehicle to make it identifiable as a Hackney Carriage.

5.3 Section 48 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 governs the licensing of Private Hire vehicles. The section states that before granting a licence for a vehicle to be used as a Private Hire vehicle, the licensing authority must be satisfied that the vehicle is:

- Suitable in type, size and design for use as a Private Hire vehicle;
- Not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a Hackney Carriage;
- In a suitable mechanical condition;
- Safe; and
- comfortable

*Katherine Jamieson, Solicitor, Legal Services, ext 37 4542*

**6 Background Papers – Local Government Act 1972**

None

**7 Consultations**

Head of Legal Services

Head of Finance

**8 Report Author**

Rachel Hall – Chief Licensing Officer

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

