

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Licensing and Regulatory Committee held at 9.30 am
on Tuesday, 12 March 2024

Present:

Members: Councillor F Abbott (Chair)
Councillor S Gray
Councillor A Hopkins
Councillor T Jandu
Councillor S Keough
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor R Lancaster
Councillor J Lepoidevin
Councillor R Thay
Councillor CE Thomas

Employees (by Service Area):

Law and Governance S Ahmed, T Robinson, C Sinclair

Regulatory Services D Cahalin-Heath, M Coggins, S Yarker

In Attendance (Observers): S Manhertz (Trainee Solicitor)

In Attendance: Taxi Driver Representative

Apologies: Councillor J Innes, L Kelly and A Masih

Public Business

56. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

57. Minutes

The Minutes of the Committee meeting held on 23 January 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

58. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business indicated below on the grounds that those items involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act, in particular those paragraphs of Part 1 of the Schedule as indicated:

Minute No.	Subject	Relevant paragraphs
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		of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
62	Applications for Grant/Suitability to hold Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers' Licence	1 & 3

59. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fee Review 2024 - 2025

The Licensing and Regulatory Committee received a report of the Director of Law and Governance regarding the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Fee Review 2024 – 2025. This review allowed members to consider objections, following a 28-day public consultation to the recent proposed increase in fees & charges for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing.

The proposed fee changes were approved by the Licensing & Regulatory Committee on 23rd January 2024, subject to a 28-day public consultation and consideration of the objections received. The proposed fees will come into force on 1st April 2024.

Following a discussion with officers, the Committee raised concerns around the general misunderstanding raised throughout the representations during the consultation period regarding the legal powers the council has to control the use of app based private hire vehicles. They also raised concerns around parking enforcement especially at sites such as Coventry Railway Station. Officers reassured the Committee that work was being done with the Taxi Forum, Avanti, and other neighbouring authorities to better enforce against private hire vehicles parking inappropriately and in taxi ranks throughout the city. They did however recognise that more joint operations should take place especially during the nighttime economy to pick up on these issues. The Committee further suggested communicating these issues to the West Midlands Combined Authority in order to remedy these problems on a wider scale.

RESOLVED that the Licensing and Regulatory Committee:

- 1) Approves, the proposed fee changes detailed in Appendix A of the report to commence on the 1st April 2024.**
- 2) Requests that licensing officers send out communications to taxi drivers regarding the concerns now raised in relation to the legal remit of the Council.**
- 3) Requests that officers raise the Committee's concerns regarding private hire parking at Coventry Railway Station and the operation of app-based taxi operations with the Cabinet Member for City Services to consider and, if necessary, take up with the West Midlands Combined Authority.**

60. Outstanding Issues Report

There were no outstanding issues.

61. Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of public business.

62. Applications for the Grant/Suitability to hold Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers' Licences

RESOLVED that, having considered the circumstances set out in the report of the Director of Law and Governance now submitted,

(a) The application for the Review of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence be given written warning.

(Notes: i) Councillor R Lakha did not vote on this application as he had left the meeting. ii) The Applicant attended the meeting in support of his case).

(b) The application for the Review of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

(Notes: i) Councillor R Lakha did not vote on this application as he had left the meeting. ii) The Applicant and his Union Representative attended the meeting in support of his case).

63. Any other items of private business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of private business.

(Meeting closed at 12.45 pm)