

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in a virtual environment on 19th May 2020.

Present:

Councillors S Gaskin (Chairman), Mrs P L Ackroyd, G Allen, Mrs B Ashcroft, R Faulkner, D. Fletcher, H. Hall, Ms A Legg, Mrs S McGarry, C Sylvester, Mrs B Toon and C Wileman.

Officers Present:

Mark Rizk (Head of Service), Mrs A Wakefield (Solicitor and Monitoring Officer), Mrs M Wooley (Licensing and Enforcement Manager) and Mrs M Henchcliffe (Senior Democratic Services Officer).

29/20 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting.

30/20 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business brought forward to the meeting under Rule 12.

31/20 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th February 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

32/20 **EXTENSION OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES FOLLOWING COVID 19**

Members received a short presentation from the Licensing and Enforcement Manager regarding the Extension of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences following COVID 19.

Members were requested to consider a request from the Burton Taxi Trade to extend the licences of private hire and hackney carriage vehicles following issues brought about by the COVID 19 pandemic. Currently vehicle licences are issued for one year. Private Hire vehicles are allowed to be licensed until they are 7 years old, and Hackney Carriages may be licensed until they are 10 years old.

The taxi trade reported that following the recent COVID 19 pandemic, most vehicles are unable to earn a living and are living off their savings. They put forward the proposal in the report to enable them to carry on earning a living once the pandemic is over and save to buy a vehicle in 2021.

A further correspondence had been received by the licensing team from a licensed driver requesting that the vehicle licenses be extended for three to six months from May 2020, to ease the burden faced by the taxi trade of purchasing a replacement vehicle, and the issues of being self-employed

However, this report relates only to the following vehicles:

- April - Two Private Hire vehicles
- May - Four Private Hire vehicles
- June - Five Private Hire vehicles
- July - Seven Private hire vehicles and four Hackney Carriage vehicles

Resolved:

Members that the private hire and hackney carriage vehicle licences, detailed at 3.9 in the report, covering the time of the pandemic lockdown, be extended for a period of 4 months from May 2020 and will be reviewed at the end of that period.

Voting concerning the above decision was as follows:

Those voting for the motions	Those voting against	Those abstaining
Councillor Mrs P L Ackroyd		
Councillor G Allen		
Councillor Mrs B Ashcroft		
Councillor R Faulkner		
Councillor D Fletcher		
Councillor S Gaskin		
Councillor H Hall		
Councillor Ms A Legg		
Councillor S McGarry		
Councillor C Sylvester		
Councillor Mrs B Toon		
Councillor C Wileman		

Chairman