

MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 12 July 2023
Venue:	Council Chamber, Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes, FY8 1LW
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Sandra Pitman (Chairman) Councillor Viv Willder (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Martin Evans, Susan Fazackerley MBE, Gail Goodman JP, Noreen Griffiths, Gavin Harrison, and Karen Henshaw JP Councillor Mark Bamforth participated in the meeting via video link ¹ .
Other Councillors Present:	None
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly, Christine Wood
Other Attendees:	Applicant for the grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Combined Driver's Licence – Mr SS

1. Declarations of Interest

Members were reminded that any disclosable pecuniary interests should be declared as required by the Localism Act 2011 and any personal or prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct for Members.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 22 March 2023 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitutes in attendance at the meeting.

Decision Items

4. Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Combined Driver's Licence – Mr SS

Mr Chris Hambly, Principal Officer (Health and Safety/Licensing) advised the Committee of the receipt of an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence. The Committee was requested to consider the application and determine if the applicant was fit and proper to hold such a licence.

The Committee was advised that in accordance with standard procedure for all applications, Mr SS had been requested to submit a Disclosure obtained through the Disclosure and Barring Service and undergo a medical examination.

¹ Council procedure rule 2 allows a councillor to participate in a meeting remotely in certain circumstances. A remotely participating councillor is not deemed to be present at the meeting and may not move, second or vote on any matter.

Minutes – Public Protection Committee – 12 July 2023

The Committee was further advised that the Disclosure had revealed fifteen convictions between 2009 and 2015, details of which were outlined to the Committee by Mr Hambly.

It was reported that only two of the 15 convictions had been declared by the applicant on his application form.

A copy of the Fylde Council's Taxi and PHV Licensing Criminal Convictions Policy was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

The applicant was invited to address the Committee and respond to questions and following this, the meeting was adjourned to enable a full and frank discussion to be held.

Following a full and frank discussion, It was RESOLVED:-

1. To refuse the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence in line with Appendix A, part 6.4 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2017-2020; and
2. In refusing the application, the Committee acknowledged that SS appeared to have made commendable efforts to turn his life around and suggested that a further application may be favourably considered in approximately two years.
5. Request for an increase in the level of Hackney Carriage Fees

The Chairman requested that Mr Hambly introduce the report which advised that a request had been received from independent members of the Hackney Carriage Trade seeking an increase in the level of hackney carriage fares. Mr Hambly also advised that the national average increase in the level of fares had been ascertained and requested that the Committee consider the request of the independent members.

A copy of the request of the independent members was attached to the report at Appendix 1. A copy of trade supporting information was attached to the report at Appendix 2. Mr Hambly advised the Committee that since publication of the agenda, the independent members had revised their request and that the details attached to the report at appendix 1 were no longer relevant. Mr Hambly also advised the Committee that independent operators were not permitted to charge above the set limit of the Local Authority.

Mr Hambly outlined to the Committee the revised requests of the independent members as follows:

- Current Tariff 1 charge to be increased by 5%
- Current Tariff 2 charge to be increased by 9%
- Current night Tariff 3 table to be amended to be Tariff 4 and vice versa
- New Tariff 3 to commence at midnight
- Tariff 4 initial hiring charge be increased to £6
- Charge for the carriage of dogs to be increased from 40p to £1 (this charge would not be applied to assistance dogs)

Councillor Harrison also proposed the following:

The following sums may be added to the fare: 20p when the price of diesel reaches £1.75p per litre and a further 20p when the price of diesel reaches £2.00p per litre. Should the price of a litre of diesel fall below £1.25, 20p shall be deducted from the total fare and a further 20p should the price fall below £1 a litre. For the purposes of this note, the price of a litre of diesel shall be the price at Heyhouses Service Station, St Annes.

The Committee acknowledged that the increase in the Level of Hackney Carriage Fares should be considered on an annual basis and that the charges should reflect the charges of neighbouring authorities.

Following a full and frank discussion, the Public Protection Committee resolved the following

1. Current Tariff 1 charge to be increased by 5%; and

Minutes – Public Protection Committee – 12 July 2023

2. Current Tariff 2 charge to be increased by 9%; and
3. Current night Tariff 3 table to be amended to be Tariff 4 and vice versa; and
4. New Tariff 3 to commence at midnight; and
5. Tariff 4 initial hiring charge be increased to £6; and
6. Charge for the carriage of dogs to be increased from 40p to £1 (this charge would not be applied to assistance dogs); and
7. The following sums may be added to the fare: 20p when the price of diesel reaches £1.75p per litre and a further 20p when the price of diesel reaches £2.00p per litre. Should the price of a litre of diesel fall below £1.25, 20p shall be deducted from the total fare and a further 20p should the price fall below £1 a litre. For the purposes of this note, the price of a litre of diesel shall be the price at Heyhouses Service Station, St Annes.

Fylde Council copyright [2023]

You may re-use this document/publication (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium. You must re-use it accurately and not in a misleading context.

The material must be acknowledged as Fylde Council copyright and you must give the title of the source document/publication.

Where we have identified any third party copyright material you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This document/publication was also available on our website at www.fylde.gov.uk
any enquiries regarding this document/publication should be sent to the Town Hall, St Annes Road West, St Annes FY8 1LW, or to listening@fylde.gov.uk.