

MINUTES

Public Protection Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 8 September 2021
Venue:	Town Hall, St Annes.
Committee Members Present:	Councillor Shirley Green (Chairman) Councillor Ray Thomas (Vice-Chairman) Councillors Frank Andrews, Brenda Blackshaw, Alan Clayton, Gavin Harrison, Karen Henshaw JP, Paul Hodgson, Angela Jacques, Michael Sayward, Stan Trudgill.
Officers Present:	Ian Curtis, Chris Hambly and Hannah Kirk

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. No interests were declared on this occasion.

2. Confirmation of Minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 7 July 2021 as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

3. Substitute Members

There were no substitute members on this occasion.

Decision Items

4. Business and Planning Act - Pavement Café Licences

The Chairman invited Chris Hambly, Environmental Services Manager, to introduce a report in relation to the temporary pavement café licences, established via the Business and Planning Act 2021. The Committee was requested to consider amending the Pavement Café Licence policy so that licences are valid for 12 months as opposed to 6 months.

He advised that the Business and Planning Act 2020 introduced a variety of measures to assist businesses and local communities during the Covid-19 pandemic, and that the amendment was being considered due to the low number of complaints received and general compliance of the 6 premises that had been granted a pavement café licence.

It was further advised that officers had been liaising with Police Counter Terrorism Security Advisers to establish effective security practices, which had resulted in the request to amend the Policy.

Following a full discussion, it was RESOLVED:

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1. That the Committee notes the report and considers updating the Policy for licences to be granted for a duration of 12 months, as opposed to the current 6 months.
2. That the Policy is amended to include conditions relating to security.

5. Revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy

The Committee was invited to review comments received following the consultation process, and subsequent amendments made to the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Mr. Hambly highlighted a selection of the responses provided, referencing a clarification made with regards to the minimum age when first licensing for existing hackney carriage licences. It was advised that there were more electric vehicles in the fleet, with work being done to establish electric chargers at taxi ranks. Mr. Hambly noted that he would aim to provide an update on this matter in a further 6 months.

Following questions, Ian Curtis, Head of Governance, confirmed that he had delivered training through the Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) on licensing matters to elected members that he could provide to the Committee. Members were in agreement that a refresher on licensing policy would be beneficial.

Following consideration, it was RESOLVED that the Committee consider and approve the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy document.

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