

Agenda



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Date: 10 May 2021
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A meeting of the

General Licensing Committee

will be held on Tuesday 18 May 2021 on the rising of the preceding meeting of the Licensing Acts Committee.

135 Eastern Avenue, Milton Park, Milton, Abingdon, OX14 4SB

Members of the Committee:

To be confirmed at the annual meeting of Council on 18 May 2021.

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M Reed'.

Margaret Reed
Head of Legal and Democratic

Agenda

Open to the public including the press

1. Apologies for absence

To record apologies for absence.

2. Minutes

(Pages 3 - 4)

To adopt and sign as a correct record the General Licensing Committee minutes of the

meeting held on 28 January 2021.

3. Declarations of interest

To receive any declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Urgent business and chair's announcements

To receive notification of any matters which the chair determines should be considered as urgent business and the special circumstances which have made the matters urgent, and to receive any announcements from the chair.

5. Public participation

To receive any questions or statements from members of the public that have registered to speak.

6. Appointment of taxi panels

Purpose: to agree the appointment of sub-committees to consider matters under the Taxi Licensing Policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS to:

- (a) appoint sub-committees comprising any three members of the General Licensing Committee;
- (b) agree that the sub-committees be known as taxi licensing panels;
- (c) appoint each member of the General Licensing Committee to serve on any taxi licensing panel which is convened so as to include her or him in its membership, subject to her or him having attended appropriate training in the last 12 months;
- (d) authorise each taxi licensing panel to discharge all functions relating to matters referred to the committee or to its sub-committees under the Taxi Licensing Policy;
- (e) agree that, wherever possible, applications should be heard by a panel comprising the chair or vice-chair of the committee plus two other members of the committee, but that this should not affect the principle that any three members of the committee will constitute a properly appointed panel;
- (f) authorise the head of legal and democratic to invite an appropriate panel to conduct a scheduled hearing having regard to members' availability and eligibility to take part and ensuring that as far as possible all members of the committee have the opportunity to conduct hearings.



Minutes

of a meeting of the

General Licensing Committee

held on Thursday 28 January 2021 at 2.00 pm
Held as a virtual meeting.

Open to the public, including the press

Present:

Councillors Alison Jenner (Chair), Ron Batstone (Vice-Chair), Paul Barrow, Eric Batts, Debby Hallett, Diana Lugova, and Val Shaw

Officers:

Sarah Commins, Laura Driscoll, Michael Flowers, Diane Foster, and Jeremy Lloyd

GL.6 Apologies for absence

None.

GL.7 Minutes

RESOLVED: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2019 as a correct record and agree that the Chair sign these as such.

GL.8 Declarations of interest

None.

GL.9 Urgent business and chair's announcements

None.

GL.10 Public participation

None.

GL.11 Review of Joint Taxi Policy

The Licensing Team Leader introduced the report. Members were informed that the existing policy had been published in 2013 and had only received minor amendments since that date. The proposed new Joint Taxi Policy subsequently was the first full review in eight years and included changes to reflect new legislation, although it was noted that the licensing authority was already complying with the legislative requirements as their working

practises had already been amended. The officer also clarified that the Department for Transport expected local authorities to implement its new standards which were published in July 2020 unless there was a compelling reason to depart from the standards.

The officer explained that the proposed consultation would run for six weeks, with a commencement on 10 February 2021. The policy would be sent to all licensed drivers and operators as well as neighbouring local authorities and the taxi licensing coordinator at Thames Valley Police. District councillors, town and parish councils, as well as disability groups would also be included in the consultation. The comments from this consultation would be considered and a further report would be sent back to the General Licensing Committee with a summary as well as a final version of the policy, with the aim of adopting the new policy in June 2021. The officer did note that two errors had been identified in advance of the meeting, but these would be amended before the policy would go to consultation.

A question was raised on whether Appendix A and B of the policy would both be sent out in the consultation. The officer confirmed that these would be included. An additional question was raised on how the new policy could impact drivers financially. The officer explained that they did not expect any serious detrimental effects, and that in some circumstances, some required actions were cheaper such as the DBS checking requirements. The officer also reminded the committee that the recommendation was for a consultation and so any final approval would need to go back to the committee.

A motion moved and seconded to support the officer's recommendations was declared carried on being put to the vote.

RESOLVED: to

- a. approve a consultation exercise to seek the views of the trade and relevant stakeholders on the revised policy, and
- b. to authorise the Head of Housing and Environment to make minor editorial changes before the document is sent out to consultation.

The meeting closed at 2.14 pm