

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing  
Committee held at Council Chamber,  
Surrey Heath House on 14 March 2018**

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+ Cllr Adrian Page (Chairman)  
+ Cllr Bill Chapman (Vice Chairman)

+ Cllr Dan Adams	+ Cllr Bruce Mansell
+ Cllr Paul Deach	+ Cllr Joanne Potter
Cllr Surinder Gandhum	+ Cllr Nic Price
- Cllr Ruth Hutchinson	+ Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr Paul Ilnicki	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr David Lewis	+ Cllr John Winterton
Cllr Jonathan Lytle	

+ Present  
- Apologies for absence presented

**5/L Minutes of Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 28 June 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**6/L Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**7/L Licensed Driver Convictions Policy**

The Committee considered a report setting out an updated version of the Convictions Policy for Licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators.

It was reported that the Council had adopted its original Convictions Policy for Licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 as part of a Surrey wide initiative. The Policy had subsequently been reviewed and updated to remove a small number of legal ambiguities and the revised policy was then subjected to a six week consultation period with statutory organisations, the public and the licensed trade. A total of 393 responses had been received as a result of the consultation and the responses had been incorporated into the revised policy.

Arising from Members' questions and comments the following points were noted:

- Paragraph 1.8 of the revised policy would be amended to remove the superfluous a from the bracketed sentence.
- Paragraph 6.2 It was clarified that that convictions for malicious wounding where there was no evidence of racial aggravation was included in the list of convictions that would prevent a licence being granted until at least ten years had elapsed since the conviction.
- The revised policy would be adopted by all Surrey authorities.

**RESOLVED** that the revised Convictions Policy for Licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Private Hire Operators, attached as Annex 3 of the Report, be adopted by the Council.

## **8/L Taxi Licensing Mechanical Inspections**

The Committee received a report providing information relating to a revision of the Council's list of garages approved to conduct mechanical inspections on licensed vehicles.

Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1973 licensing authorities were able to set conditions and regulations relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles on the grounds of public safety. One of the local conditions adopted in Surrey Heath was a requirement for vehicles to undergo and pass a mechanical assessment at a garage nominated by the Council before a licence was granted.

Since 1997, the Council's nominated inspection garage had been Motoright Ltd in Yateley. The garage had been operated from a leasehold site and the sale of the land to a third party had necessitated the Garage's relocation to new freehold premises in Finchampstead. It was noted that the move had resulted in improved facilities with an additional MOT testing bay and an extra MOT Tester had been employed.

It was stressed that the garage was independent of any franchises or manufacturers and that drivers were free to use another garage of their choosing to complete any remedial work identified as being necessary.

The Committee noted that Motoright Ltd, the Council's nominated garage for mechanical inspections in relation to Hackney carriage and Private Hire vehicles had changed its name to Motoright Hogwood Garage Ltd and relocated to Unit F, Weller Drive, Hogwood lane Industrial estate, Finchampsted, RG40 4QZ.

## **9/L Taxi Rank Review**

The Committee was informed that plans to improve Camberley High Street were expected to impact on its taxi rank and any changes would require the publication of new traffic orders and schedules.

The Committee was informed that in order to streamline the Council's processes and ensure that any enforcement matters could be dealt with in a straightforward manner it would be practical to create a single traffic schedule that brought together all the legislation associated with taxi ranks. This would require a Borough wide review of all taxi ranks and the proposed changes to the layout of Camberley High Street provided an opportune moment to carry out this work.

Private hire and hackney carriage licence holders would be consulted as part of this work and their views fed into the review and updates would be brought to the Committee as they developed.

The Committee noted the update.

## **10/L Licensing Act 2003 - Summary of Decisions**

The Committee received and noted a report summarising the decisions taken under delegated powers in respect of licence applications since their last meeting.

**CHAIRMAN**