

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee**
held on Monday, 6th June, 2022 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3, Westfields,
Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

PRESENT

Councillor D Edwardes (Chair)
Councillor J Wray (Vice-Chair)

Councillors J Barber, S Davies, H Faddes, R Fletcher, S Handley,
A Harewood, L Smetham and N Wylie

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Helen Davies- Democratic Services Officer
Kim Evans- Licensing Team Leader
Phil Jennings- Legal Officer

35 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Suzie Akers Smith,
Councillor Iain MacFarlane, Councillor Lloyd Roberts, Councillor Julie
Smith and Councillor David Brown.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

37 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no public speakers.

38 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2022 be
approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

39 MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED:
That the minutes of the following meetings be received:

40 LICENSING ACT SUB-COMMITTEE

(a) Licensing Act Sub-Committee
17 May 2022
16 May 2022

13 May 2022
11 May 2022
11 April 2022
25 February 2022
22 February 2022
11 February 2022

41 GENERAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

(b) General Licensing Sub-Committee
10 May 2022
30 March 2022

42 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

Kim Evans, Licensing Team Leader introduced the report to the Committee.

The report was to consider a draft of licensing policy, Appendix 4 gave an explanation to consultee comments and officers comments and recommendations for changes.

The Committee were advised its role was to note the draft policy and recommend for adoption to the Environment & Communities Committee who were the decision makers for the policy.

RESOLVED: That:

- i.) the changes to the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy be received and noted; and
- ii.) the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (incorporating the officer amendments and suggestions), be recommended to the Environment and Communities Committee for adoption.

43 PROPOSED INCREASES TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES

In accordance with Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to an additional item of business relating to the proposed increase to Hackney carriage table of fares on the grounds that the matter could not wait until the next meeting.

Kim Evans, Licensing Team Leader attended the meeting and introduced the report to the Committee.

The Committee were advised that the fares were maximum charges and the three zones within the report aligned with the former boroughs.

The Committee were given the opportunity to ask questions. There was some discussion about:

- the view of this Committee that there should be harmonisation on the three former borough areas on price, the Licensing Team Leader advised that whilst there had been discussions by former Cabinet Members, nothing had been progressed on this since the change of governance to a Committee System;
- the increase in cost of living and concerns for residents who might depend on commuting by taxi at night for work and walking might not be a safe or viable option at night. This should be a consideration for the Committee when fare setting;
- the Flag Rate for taxis, the Licensing Team Leader confirmed this was a one-mile rate for Cheshire East; and
- the potential that increasing the fees will pass the cost to passengers, the Licensing Team Leader advised that in many instances there had been no increases since 2015 which the taxi drivers have had to absorb.

RESOLVED: That:

- i) the proposals for each zone be approved for publication and consultation in accordance with statutory requirements;
- ii) that the Licencing Team Leader be authorised to take all necessary actions to publish the statutory public notices;
- iii) In the event of any objections being received, the Head of Regulatory Services be given delegated authority to determine the final fares payable;
- iv) If no objections are received, that the Table of Fares for each zone, advertised in accordance with the requirements of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, will come into effect automatically on the date specified in the Statutory Public Notices; and
- v) That delegated authority be granted to the Licensing Team Leader to propose changes to the tables of fares and to advertise those proposals in line with statutory requirements. The Licensing Team Leader will be limited to increases below or equal to the inflation rate (rounded) and minor changes to the structure of the fares. Any objections to proposals in these circumstances to be considered by the Head of Regulatory Services. Any proposals that exceed inflation rates are to remain with the Licensing Committee for consideration and determination.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 2.40 pm

Councillor D Edwardes (Chair)

