



MINUTES OF MEETING

PLANNING, REGULATORY AND LICENSING MEETING

WEDNESDAY, 9TH JUNE, 2021

PRESENT: Councillors H Barrett (Chair)
C Tovey (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Colbran, D Chaplin, E Galsworthy, K Gibbs,
C T Jones, G Lewis, D Sammon, J Thomas and S Thomas

Officers:

J Baber (Licensing Officer), A Hughes (Licensing Officer),
P Lewis (Trading Standards and Licensing Manager), S Jones
(Senior Solicitor) and M Phillips (Democratic Services Officer)

| ITEM NO. | AGENDA MATTER | DECISION |
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| 44 | Apologies for absence | No apologies for absence received from committee members. |
| 45 | Declarations of Interest | Councillor J Thomas declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 3, 4 and 5 as he is a taxi driver and a former proprietor. |
| 46 | Licensing - Green Fleet Scheme | Councillor J Thomas left the meeting as he declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Item 3, 4 and 5. Paul Lewis led the committee through the report highlighting the salient points. The following questions were raised by the committee and responded to in detail by the officers present. |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you clarify the colour of the vehicles • The report states that this is an on-going pilot scheme, but a number of years ago we agreed that all local taxis must be all black, how will you explain this colour scheme to taxi firms • How many taxi drivers are currently licensed in Merthyr Tydfil • If a large number of drivers in the County Borough wish to take advantage of this scheme, how would it work • There are two vehicles available to two hundred and fifty drivers, if a significant number of our drivers wish to take advantage of the scheme these vehicles could be with us for a considerable period of time. • Is the current allocation of two vehicles enough • In relation to charging these vehicles, there are very few public charge points in the County Borough. There will be availability at the new bus station, can you confirm that these will be available to taxis 24 hours a day 7 days a week • Can you confirm what the range is for these vehicles once charged • Is Welsh Government covering the cost of charging these vehicles • Can you confirm how long it takes to charge these vehicles <p>It was requested that a six-monthly update be reported to the committee whilst the scheme is active.</p> <p>After comments and consideration by Committee, it was Resolved that:</p> <p>The conditions relating to Section 4 – colour and section 6.10 – advertising are set aside for vehicles licensed as part of the Green Fleet Scheme be approved</p> |
| 47 | Taxi Licensing - National Register of Taxi Licence Refusals and Revocations | <p>The Licensing Officer led the committee through the report and highlighted the salient points.</p> <p>The following questions were raised by the committee and were answered in detail by the officers in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In relation to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers application process can you confirm that all two hundred and fifty of our drivers currently have the advanced driving certificate |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any drivers currently licensed that have grandfather rights? • The report states that applicants must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of twelve months, it is felt that this period isn't long enough and that 52 weeks driving experience is insufficient <p>After consideration by Committee, it was Resolved that:</p> <p>The amended Taxi Licensing Application Policy be approved to take immediate effect.</p> <p>The Policy titled Policy for Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council in respect of requests for information, disclosure of information, and use of information as a result of an entry on NR3 be approved to take immediate effect.</p> |
| 48 | Private Hire Vehicle Licence | <p>The Legal Officer addressed the committee in relation to this item being heard by the sub-committee prior to this meeting.</p> <p>The Licensing Officer led the committee through the report and highlighted the salient points.</p> <p>The following question were raised by the committee and were answered in detail by the officers in attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is not the first time Mr Shepherd has been before the committee for similar issues, what reasons were given by Mr Shepherd for not making the application prior to 4th anniversary of the vehicles first registration • The applicant states that in other authorities the rule relating to the yellow door stickers are set aside on executive vehicles, do we have any information from other local authorities as to why this condition would be set aside and the reasons • The applicant states that the vehicle will only be used for contract work, executive work, airports and collecting clients who pre book with us. How will this be monitored on a regular basis • The fact that this vehicle will be used exclusively for executive travel, can this be written into his licence • Can you clarify that if this vehicle were to collect a group of eight on a Saturday night the door stickers would have to be displayed |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you confirm that you will use intelligence gathering to monitor if this vehicle is used otherwise in accordance with the licence provided • Clarity was sought by the committee in relation to Mr Shepherds insurance <p>After comments and consideration by Committee, it was Resolved that:</p> <p>The committee grant the application for the Private Hire Vehicle Licence and approve the exemption from Condition 6.4.</p> |
| 49 | Any Other Business Deemed Urgent by the Chair | <p>The Committee addressed the 4.00pm start time for the Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee that was agreed at Full Council on 19th May 2021.</p> <p>After comments and consideration by Committee, it was Resolved that:</p> <p>The Planning, Regulatory and Licensing Committee revert back to a 5.00pm start time.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed that there was no other business deemed urgent and thanked the members for their attendance before closing the meeting.</p> |