

**At a Meeting of the LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER on MONDAY, 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2024 at 10:00am**

**Present:-**

Councillor Fletcher in the Chair

Councillors Ayre, Dodds, Gibson, Hartnack, Heron, Laverick, Leonard, Mordey, and M. Walker

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Chapman, Reed, H. Trueman and Wood.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2023  
Part I**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2023 Part I, (copy circulated), be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**Annual Performance Review Report**

The Executive Director of City Development submitted a report, (copy circulated), which provided the Committee with its second Annual Performance Review Report concerning hackney carriage and private hire licensing matters. On this occasion the period under consideration was 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023.

(For copy report – see original minutes)

Mrs. Dawn Howley, Principal Licensing Officer, presented the report and drew Members' attention to the figures for 2023 in comparison with figures for 2022. There had been a reduction in the number of applications for hackney carriages. However, there had been an increase in the number of applications for private hire vehicles, (i.e. both in terms of driver's licences and vehicle licences), compared to hackney carriages, which was possibly due to the increase in popularity of private hire services, such as Uber and other app based services. There had also been a reduction in the number of licence renewals, although it was acknowledged that as driver's licences were granted for a period of three years there may be peaks and troughs in the numbers from year to year.

Councillor Mordey thanked Officers for the report and stated that he had a number of residents had reported to him that there was a lack of access to wheelchair

accessible vehicles and asked if steps to increase the numbers could be looked at. Mrs. Howley advised that this was something that could be considered.

Councillor Hartnack referred to the complaints made. It was confirmed that these were reactive, i.e. the Licensing Section had responded to submitted complaints. He asked whether proactive work could be done to prevent complaints from needing to be raised. There was a reluctance from some drivers to pick up passengers in wheelchairs. Mrs. Howley advised that proactive work, including enforcement activity, was undertaken. She confirmed that unless an exemption was in place, it was an offence under the Equality Act 2010 for a driver to refuse to take a passenger who uses a wheelchair. Mrs. Howley confirmed there had been a meeting arranged with a disability group. Unfortunately, that meeting had been cancelled and was to be re-arranged in due course.

2. RESOLVED that the information within the Annual Performance Review Report be noted.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

3. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered likely to include the disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the Authority holding that information). (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraphs 1 and 3).

(Signed) J. FLETCHER,  
Chairman.

### **Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of further items are included in Part II.