

**At a Meeting of the LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER on MONDAY, 30<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2023 at 10:00am**

**Present:-**

Councillor M. Walker in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Chisnall, Dodds, P. Gibson, Hartnack, Heron, Mann, Mordey, G. Smith, H. Trueman and A. Wood

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted to the meeting on behalf of Councillors Donaghy, Fletcher and PWL Gibson.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022  
Part I**

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, 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 first Annual Performance Review Report concerning hackney carriage and private hire licensing matters. The report covered the period 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022, both dates being inclusive.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Mr Scott Lawrence, Senior Licensing Officer, presented the report and advised that as part of the Statement of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy, which the Committee had approved at its Meeting of 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2022, an Annual Performance Review Report was to be presented to the Committee at the second diarised meeting of each calendar year. Being the first such report it contained figures for 2022. Future reports will indicate previous year's figures, thereby allowing for comparisons to be made between the statistics from the previous year.

The report detailed the number of Meetings of the Committee which had taken place, along with the number of applications considered both by Officers and the Committee. The report confirmed that there had not been any decisions taken to suspend, or revoke, with immediate effect, licences to drive hackney carriages, or private hire vehicles.

Information was set out relating to complaints received and the outcomes of those complaints. Of the five complaints where a written warning had been issued to drivers: two had been issued for refusing to take passengers; two for driver behaviour; or attitude; and one for a driver having made inappropriate comments. The licensed driver who had surrendered his licence had been charged with being drunk in charge of a motor vehicle. After they had been advised that it was possible that their licence could be revoked, the driver elected to surrender their licence.

The report explained that a single appeal had been submitted against decisions made. There had been one appeal presented to the Magistrates' Court against the decision to revoke a driver's licence on a non-immediate basis. Their appeal had been dismissed by the Court.

As the Driver Improvement Scheme had been introduced as from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2023, there was no data relating to the number of drivers who had been referred to the Scheme.

Information was also presented which was considered to be of interest to the Committee. The Committee had given consideration to the variation of the maximum fares chargeable by hackney carriages, which had been approved at the Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2022. Work had been done to successfully prosecute a driver, (licensed by Newcastle City Council), who had been illegally plying for hire in the City of Sunderland.

Members having given consideration to the report, and upon there being no questions, it was:-

2. RESOLVED that the Annual Performance Review Report be received and its contents 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) M. WALKER,  
Chair.

#### **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.