

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of this Committee held on
21 February 2023

(Present) **Councillor Bell (Chair)**
Councillors Campbell, Haw, Laird, T Long, Maguire and
Tasker

(Not Present) **Councillors C D Banks, J Banks, Hattersley, Hawley,**
Maloney MBE, Mussell, Sheldon and Uddin

45 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C D Banks, J Banks, Hattersley, Maloney MBE and Uddin.

46 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

There were no declarations of interest from Members.

47 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2024

* **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 be approved and signed.**

48 MODERNISATION OF TAXI LICENSING

A report was presented to Members which outlined the proposed changes to ensure that the taxi licensing service delivery model was modernised to meet the needs of the licensed trade, removing perceived barriers, whilst maintaining the safety of the travelling public.

The report highlighted how the service would refocus taxi licensing procedures to realign the provision to the Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Standards and the Department for Transport (DFT) Best Practice Guidance. This would produce a revised, streamlined training requirement and a revised vehicle testing procedure. The modernisation would cover operational improvements to the Application Process, the Disclosure Barring Service (DBS) and Group 2 Medicals as well as to the Driver Training requirement and the Vehicle Testing and Compliance procedures.

Members were recommended to note the operational changes to the Application Process and the DBS and Medicals already underway and authorise a four-week consultation with the licensed trade, relevant organisations and the public on the proposed changes to the Driver Training and Vehicle Testing and Compliance procedures. Members were advised that any responses received during the consultation would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee for consideration.

* **Resolved that:**

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) a four-week consultation on the proposed changes to Driver Training requirements and Vehicle Testing and Compliance procedures be undertaken.