

# Bristol City Council

## Minutes of the Public Safety and Protection Committee



18 February 2020 at 9.00 am

### **Members Present:-**

**Councillors:** Ruth Pickersgill (Chair), Tom Brook, Chris Davies, Richard Eddy, Fi Hance, Carole Johnson and Estella Tincknell

### **Officers in Attendance:-**

Sarah Flowers, Carl Knights, Lynne Harvey, Oliver Harrison

### **1. Welcome and Safety Information**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and drew attention to the safety information.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Steve Jones and Lucy Whittle.

### **3. Declaration of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED - The minutes of the meeting of 11 June 2019 agreed as a correct record.

### **5. Public Forum**

There was no public forum.



## **6. Revision to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Policy: Requirement to subscribe to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) Update Service as part of the Fit and Proper Person Policy**

Sarah Flower introduced the report and gave the Committee an executive summary. There was a short discussion where members said the new system was welcome as it improved public safety while enabling drivers to keep their records up to date cheaper and quicker.

RESOLVED – The Committee approved the following recommendations:

- (1) consider the information within this report and;
- (2) to delegate authority to the Licensing Manager to consult on the proposal to amend the fit and proper persons policy to require drivers and applicants to sign up to the online Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) update;
- (3) to bring a report back to committee to consider the responses to the consultation and any further proposed changes.

## **7. Introduction of a Private Hire Operator Policy and amendment to Private Hire Operator Licence conditions**

Sarah Flowers introduced the report and gave the committee an executive summary.

The following points were discussed:

- The proposal enhances safety, as it requires training for non-driver staff including proper personal data management.
- It is possible under the current system to lose a license as a driver but continue or begin as an operator.
- Feedback on these proposals from operators is positive and many are already taking these steps themselves.
- Large firms may find this easier to implement, but the policy can be flexible based on the size of the organisation.

RESOLVED – the Committee approved the following recommendations:

- (1) consider the information within this report
- (2) delegate authority to the Licensing Manager to consult on:
  - a) the proposed Private Hire Operator Policy,
  - b) amendments to be made to existing Private Hire Operator Conditions



## 8. Proposal to Introduce Mandatory Card Payments Facility in Hackney Carriages

Sarah Flowers introduced the report and gave the Committee an executive summary.

The following points were discussed:

- There is currently no policy to cover card payments. There is now an expectation from the public that they can pay with cards, especially contactless payments.
- This should stop the phenomenon of customers needing to stop at cash machines, causing inconvenience for customers and drivers.
- Many card readers also have the facility to take payments via smart phones, which is useful if cards have been stolen.
- Some drivers have raised issue of renting their vehicle rather than owning, which means placement of card readers could be difficult. However most readers can be attached and detached from the vehicle.

RESOLVED: the Committee approved the following recommendations:

a) Agree to consult on the draft Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy to include a mandatory card payment facility which is attached as Appendix 1

b) Agree to consult on draft Hackney Carriage Vehicle inspection standards which is attached as Appendix 2

## 9. Private Hire Vehicle Policy and Private Hire Vehicle Inspections Standard Policy - Tints

Sarah Flowers introduced the report and gave the committee an executive summary.

The following points were discussed:

- This policy has already been discussed with several stakeholders, including Taxi Forum and the Members Working Group.
- The policy refers to tints as factory standard, not after market films. This is to avoid the need for drivers to replace windows in a new car upon purchase due to the level of tint as standard.
- The Sight Loss Forum was consulted during policy development. Although there was some concern about how this could affect people with sight loss, they would prefer Bristol drivers to have their license issued within the Authority due to the better standards.
- As this decision is about starting a consultation it does not fall into pre-election period restrictions. The decision itself should be taken outside of the PEP.

RESOLVED – the Committee approved the following recommendations:

(1) consider the information within this report

(2) delegate authority to the Licensing and Trading Standards Manager to consult on:



- a) amendments to be made to existing Private Hire Vehicle Policy attached as Appendix 1
- b) amendments to be made to the existing vehicle inspection standard attached as Appendix 2

Meeting ended at 9.40am

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

