

ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE REQUEST OF THE CHAIRMAN

Executive Summary

The report set out items to be considered at the meeting at the request of the Chairman.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That the report be noted.

The Committee has the authority to determine the recommendation(s) set out above.

Background Papers: None.

Reporting Person: Councillor Mohammed Ali, Chairman of the Licensing Committee
Email: cllrmohammed.ali@woking.gov.uk

Contact Persons: Joanne McIntosh, Legal Services Manager
Email: joanne.mcintosh@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3038
Matthew Cobb, Senior Licensing Officer
Email: matthew.cobb@woking.gov.uk, Extn: 3650

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1.0 Items to Be Considered

The following items have been included on the agenda at the request of the Chairman of the Licensing Committee for discussion.

1. The consideration of the Introduction of a Points based system for taxi drivers

The Licensing Department is currently developing a proposal to introduce a points based penalty system. This proposal is scheduled to be presented to the Licensing Committee on 10 March 2020. Following which and depending upon the decision of the Licensing Committee, it is proposed to undertake consultation upon the proposal and report back to the Licensing Committee on 9 June 2020. The Licensing Committee is invited to make any preliminary comments to be incorporated into the report at this stage.

2. Delegation of Authority

Authority has been delegated to the Legal Services Manager in connection with the Council's Licensing function and can be found at page 115 – 116 of the Council's Constitution. A link to the scheme of delegations is set out below:-

<https://moderngov.woking.gov.uk/documents/s1209/Part%203%20-%20Responsibility%20of%20Functions%20Management%20Arrangements%20and%20Sceme%20of%20Delegations.pdf>

These delegations enable the Licensing Department to determine applications for Taxi and Private Hire applications and applications under the Licensing Act 2003.

Authority has been delegated to the Legal Services Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee to suspend or revoke private hire operators' and drivers' and taxi drivers' licences in appropriate cases. These decisions are based on the evidence before the department and are fully documented and recorded. An annual report is presented to the Licensing Committee outlining the use of these delegations.

3. Licence Applications

The Licensing Department considers all applications and renewals in accordance with Policy. The Taxi Driver and Private Hire Handbook contains all policy in this regard. The Licensing Committee is invited to raise any questions in respect of the process.

4. Dates for future taxi forum and request from trade for an informal meeting

Consideration is currently being given to the conduct and structure of future Taxi Forums and how best these can be managed to ensure a productive meeting and positive experience for all those involved. Given the nature of the projects proposed over the coming year it is anticipated that such meetings will be a useful tool.

5. Electric Vehicles

Following the petition heard at Full Council in October, the implementation of the Council's vehicle specification policy was deferred until December 2020. During this time, the policy shall be reviewed and proposals brought before the Licensing Committee for consideration. Given, the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, it is proposed to consider the introduction of hybrid and/or electric vehicle specification in conjunction with the review of the vehicle specification policy.

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6. Update in respect of Uber

As the Licensing Committee may be aware TFL have refused to renew Uber's licence. Uber has lodged an appeal in respect of the same and continues to operate until the appeal is determined. The Licensing Department is awaiting the outcome of the appeal and has no concerns for residents' safety.

REPORT ENDS