

**LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
6 FEBRUARY 2020
7.30 - 8.15 PM**



Present:

Councillors Porter (Chairman), Brossard (Vice-Chairman), Allen, Atkinson, Brunel-Walker, Finch, Ms Gaw, Gbadebo, Mrs Ingham, Kirke, Leake and Tullett

Apologies for absence were received from:

Councillors Dr Barnard, Brown and Mrs McKenzie-Boyle

23. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

24. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Arising from the minutes, the following updates were noted:

- Officers had made contact with Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to discuss the use of CCTV in private hire and hackney carriage vehicles on base.
- Bracknell town centre management had been invited to the next trade meeting on 26 February 2020.
- No further feedback had been received from the trade around fare rises.
- Officers had offered support to the trade around carrying disabled customers.
- No further updates had been received from the trade regarding the misuse of the taxi rank at Waitrose in the Lexicon.
- A list of wheelchair accessible hackney carriage vehicles was already available on the Council website. The numbers of other registered vehicles would be available in future, after a development to the IT system.
- The Committee discussed measures to be taken in future to encourage the use of electric and hybrid taxis to support the Council's pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050. It was also noted that the Government had set 2035 as the deadline to buy new petrol and diesel cars. Officers agreed to bring a report with proposals to the next meeting.

25. Urgent Items of Business

There was no Urgent Items of Business.

26. Notice of Public Speaking

There were no items of Public Speaking.

27. Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Fees Consultation Report

Suzanne McLaughlin presented the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Fees Consultation report.

The consultation had been carried out on the fees proposed to Committee at their last meeting, in line with statutory requirements. The consultation had been held between December and January 2019/20 and had been advertised both through Bracknell News and by letters to all licensed drivers. One response had been received.

In response to questions, the following points were noted:

- Members expressed regret for the lack of response from the trade, and the Chairman agreed to raise their concern at the next trade meeting.
- It was noted that there had been similar responses in Wokingham and West Berkshire. In Wokingham, no responses had been received and in West Berkshire, 30 responses had been received from drivers of the same company.
- Members were reminded that even when a trade association had been in place the past, Bracknell Forest had historically had little consultation response from the trade.
- Officers were asked to consider using other communication methods such as Survey Monkey, however this would deviate from the Council's corporate consultation policy.
- There had been significant take up of the safeguarding training for licensed drivers.
- It was noted that there would be no further changes to the fees and charges in Annex B as these had been approved by the Committee.

CHAIRMAN