

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

7 AUGUST 2018

Present: Councillor Mackie(Chairperson)
Councillors Murphy, Dilwar Ali, Goddard, Jacobsen, Lancaster,
Robson, Taylor, Williams and Wood

6 : APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Davies.

7 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

8 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 3 July 2018 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairperson.

9 : LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Members were advised that an application was received from Mr Daniel Morgan to approve a 1965 Volkswagen Beetle as a private hire vehicle to be used for special events. The vehicle did not meet the Council's Private Hire Vehicle Licence conditions.

Mr Morgan primarily uses the vehicle for bookings at weddings, which are exempt from the licensing requirements of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. He is unable to accept other bookings, such as school proms, as the vehicle is unlicensed. The vehicle is in immaculate condition and is exempt from providing an MOT. However, it has been MOT tested with no advisories.

Mr Morgan will also be required to obtain a private hire operator licence and a hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence in order to fulfil booking requests.

If the vehicle was minded to approve this application as special set of conditions would be required in place of the standard conditions in order to ensure that vehicles licenced for special events are structurally and mechanically safe. A draft set of conditions was appended to the report.

Members were asked to consider the merits of the application.

RESOLVED – That:

- (1) the Committee approve the Special Event Private Hire Vehicle Conditions detailed in Appendix B;
- (2) the 1965 Volkswagen Beetle be approved for use as a special event private hire vehicle.

10 : CCTV SYSTEMS FOR LICENSED VEHICLES

At its meeting on 3 July 2018 the Committee considered a report in relation to whether the vehicle licence condition restricting the use of darkened glass should be removed. The Committee agreed to allow the use of darkened glass in licenced vehicles, provided that a CCTV system was also fitted in the vehicle.

An implementation date was not determined by the Committee, but due to the complexities involved in ensuring that any Council approved CCTV system complies with all legal requirements, such as the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018, officers advised that an implementation date be delayed until approval of CCTV criteria.

The current condition applied to the voluntary use of CCTV in vehicles states:

‘Interior CCTV equipment of a type previously approved by the Authority may be fitted in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions, subject to:

a) a sign indicated that recording equipment is in use being clearly displayed within the vehicle, and;

b) all images downloaded from the camera being made available to the Police, upon request, for up to 28 days following download of the images.’

At its meeting on 6 February 2018 the Committee approved an application for the use of the MTC 33 Dual Camera CCTV system. The Committee also determined to allow officers to approve any future applications for CCTV systems.

The Committee was advised that officers are currently undertaking a review of the Council’s Taxi Licensing Policy. Officers considered that the above condition is not detailed enough to assist officers in the evaluation of suitable CCTV systems and also, in addition legislative changes and technological advances necessitate the need for an approved CCTV specification criteria to ensure that the application process is robust and consistent.

RESOLVED – That the vehicle licence condition in paragraph 1.1 of the report not be implemented until a CCTV specification criteria has been approved by the Committee.

11 : URGENT ITEMS (IF ANY)

No urgent items were presented.

The meeting terminated at 11.00am