



## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6.00 pm in Walker Room, Meeting Point House, Southwater Square, Telford, TF3 4HS**

**Present:** Councillors L Parker (Vice-Chair), E Aston, A J Burford, P Davis, J Thompson, K T Tomlinson and R Tyrrell

**In Attendance:** A Hunt (Public Protection Manager), S Fisher (Principal Licensing Officer), S Hardwick (Lead Lawyer: Litigation & Regulatory) and L Gordon (Democracy Officer (Scrutiny))

**Apologies:** Councillor G C W Latham-Reynolds

#### **LIC24 Election of Chair**

**RESOLVED** – that Cllr John Thompson be elected as Chair of the Licensing Committee.

#### **LIC25 Declarations of Interest**

None.

#### **LIC26 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 8 September 2023 be noted and signed by the Chair.

#### **LIC27 Terms of Reference 2023/2024**

**RESOLVED** – that the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be approved.

#### **LIC28 Review of Taxi CCTV policy**

The Public Protection Group Manager provided the Committee with an update on the recent consultation on whether to make CCTV in Telford and Wrekin licensed vehicles mandatory and the feedback received.

Members discussed the strain that the cost of the CCTV installation presented to individual taxi drivers and questioned whether this cost could be subsidised by the operators, or whether it would be possible for the trial units to be resold.

The Committee recognised the benefits of mandatory CCTV but whilst this has been adopted by only 17 out of 266 licensing authorities there were inequalities across



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Councils and therefore they recommended lobbying government and the Local Government Association asking that CCTV be made a mandatory requirement in law.

**RESOLVED** - that:

- a) The progress made to date regarding the installation of CCTV in Telford & Wrekin licenced vehicles on a voluntary basis be noted;
- b) The feedback from the CCTV consultation in June 2023 be noted;
- c) The Committee note the contents of the report and agree to maintain the current voluntary policy outlined in Appendix A, relating to the installation of CCTV in Telford & Wrekin licenced vehicles and officers continue to explore external funding opportunities to progress the installation of CCTV in taxis on a voluntary basis;
- d) Officers continue to work with other licensing officers regionally and other relevant bodies to ask that CCTV be made a mandatory requirement in law by the government.

The meeting ended at 6.28pm

Chairman: .....

Date: Wednesday, 13 March 2024