

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor David Munro (Chair) and Councillors Juliet Barker Smith, Brandon Clayton, Matthew Dormer, Andrew Fry, Sid Khan, Gary Slim, Jen Snape, Paul Wren and Sharon Harvey

Officers:

Kiran Lahel, Hazel Powell and Vanessa Brown

Democratic Services Officers:

Gavin Day

13. DELEGATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES OUTSIDE OF POLICY DUE TO AGE. RESPONSES RECEIVED TO THE 6 WEEK CONSULTATION.

The Licencing and Support Services Manager, Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS), presented the report to Members.

The purpose of the report was for Members to consider the consultation responses and to resolve whether to proceed with the actions required to permanently delegate authority to officers to determine applications for licences to use vehicles as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles where the vehicle does not meet the Council's required criteria in respect of the age of the vehicle.

Officers drew Members attention to the table at 3.7 on page 7 of the Public Documents pack and detailed that of the 47 responders 74.47% were in Favor of delegating decision making to Licencing Officers. Additionally, it was further noted that there was a good response to the survey and Officers were content with the validity of the result.

The comments made by consultees were found on pages 11 to 17 of the Public Reports pack, Officers noted that although some of the comments were very unfavourable to Members, they believed that it was only suitable for all the responses to be shown to give Members an overview of the consultation feedback.

Officers clarified that as per the consultation criteria, the delegation would only be for vehicle renewals which were outside of the age

Chair

Licensing

Committee

Monday, 8th December, 2025

criteria. Additionally, Officers further clarified that the next step would be a recommendation to the Constitutional Review Working Party group who would then Recommend the item on to full Council for a determination.

Members drew officers' attention to the comments in regard to reversing the mileage on vehicles before a safety inspection and some of the other responses and asked if Officers could reach out to investigate the issues. Officers replied that the consultation was an anonymous exercise and therefore, it was not possible to identify the individual to approach them for more information.

Members commented that although they initially had some reservations with regard to the delegation, the trade appeared to be generally in favour of the change and that Licencing Officers and the Vehicle Safety Engineer were best suited to review those applications. Therefore, on being put to a vote it was

RESOLVED that

It be recommended to the Constitutional Review Working Party that authority be delegated to officers to determine renewal applications for licences to use vehicles as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles where the vehicle does not meet the Council's required criteria in respect of the age of the vehicle

The Meeting commenced at 7.00 pm
and closed at 7.45 pm