



Regulatory and General Purposes Committee

Date:	Thursday, 23 November 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Birkenhead Town Hall

Contact Officer: Anne Beauchamp
Tel: 0151 691 8322
e-mail: annebeauchamp@wirral.gov.uk
Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

Please note that public seating is limited therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

Wirral Council is fully committed to equalities and our obligations under The Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty. If you have any adjustments that would help you attend or participate at this meeting, please let us know as soon as possible and we would be happy to facilitate where possible. Please contact committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
2. **APOLOGIES**
3. **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

4. **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**
 - 4.1 **Public Questions**

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Monday 20 November 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer via this link: [Public Question Form](#) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol for Public Speakers at Committees | Wirral Council](#)

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

4.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Monday 20 November 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

4.3 Questions by Members

Questions by Members to dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

5. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2023.

6. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL (Pages 5 - 28)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Panel held on 16 August, 8 September, 15 September, 21 September, 13 October and 20 October 2023.

7. **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH SUE HIGGINSON, OBE (Pages 29 - 34)**
8. **POLLING PLACES REVIEW (Pages 35 - 42)**
9. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES (Pages 43 - 48)**
10. **REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES (Pages 49 - 58)**

Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this committee can be found at the end of this agenda.

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday, 7 September 2023

Present:

Councillors	C Cooke	M Redfern
	B Hall	J Stewart Laing
	M Jordan	K Stuart
	L Luxon-Kewley	M Sullivan
	C McDonald	E Tomeny
	K Murphy	I Lewis (In place of A Hodson)
	R Pitt	

Apologies

Councillors	A Hodson
	S Bennett
	G Davies

11 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Members of the Committee were asked to appoint a Chair for this meeting.

On a motion by Councillor M Jordan and seconded by Councillor M Sullivan, it was –

Resolved – That Councillor I Lewis be appointed Chair for this meeting.

12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the webcast.

13 APOLOGIES

The Chair confirmed apologies had been received from Councillor A Hodson (Chair) for whom he was deputising, Councillor S Bennett (Vice-Chair) and Councillor G Davies.

14 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

15 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no questions submitted from any members of the public or from any Members.

16 **STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no statements or petitions received.

17 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2023 be approved.

18 **MINUTES OF THE REGULATORY PANEL AND THE LICENSING PANEL**

Resolved – That the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory Panel (now re-named as the Licensing Panel) held on 19 May 2023 and the Licensing Panel meetings held on 20 June, 28 July and 4 August 2023 be approved.

19 **HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH (POSTHUMOUS AWARD) GLENDA JACKSON**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report requesting that Members of the Committee recommend to Council that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on 9 October 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that this was a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people had been awarded this status and it should only be awarded to someone who had made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Glenda Jackson of Birkenhead is considered to be within this category.

Councillor M Sullivan paid tribute to Glenda Jackson for her great service to the country and highly commended that this award be given.

In response to a question from the Chair, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised that proposals for this award may be provided by a Councillor or anyone in the Borough for consideration by this Committee.

On a motion by Councillor M Sullivan and seconded by Councillor J Stewart Laing, it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That in pursuance of the provisions of Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Glenda Jackson be posthumously admitted as an Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 9 October 2023; and**
- (2) That officers be requested to take the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a small civic reception for family representatives of Glenda Jackson and some invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 9 October 2023.**

20 **PARLIAMENTARY POLLING PLACE AND POLLING DISTRICT STATUTORY REVIEW**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report advising Members of the arrangements for the statutory polling place and polling district statutory review 2023.

The Civic and Electoral Services Manager reported that the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must conduct a statutory review of polling places and polling districts every five years which can start no earlier than 1 October 2023 and must be completed within 16 months. Therefore, this must be completed no later than 31 January 2025.

Members were informed that the statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rests with each relevant local authority in Great Britain for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area.

The Local Authority has a statutory duty to undertake a full review of their Parliamentary polling places and polling districts within the Borough and make such changes as would be considered necessary to ensure they remain accessible to all electors. Any proposed changes to current arrangements would be presented for consideration at the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee meeting on 23 November 2023.

In response to questions from Members of the Committee, the Civic and Electoral Services Manager advised that any proposed changes would be presented to this Committee at its meeting on 23 November in order that the new register could be published on 1 December 2023 to enable the register to be used for elections held in May 2024 as publication would be delayed otherwise. Members were also advised that no changes were envisaged for local elections and that in addition to the statutory review required to be taken

every 5 years, polling places were reviewed following each election by Electoral Services.

Members were advised that the consultation in respect of the polling place and polling district review would take place with local disability and community groups and all Members, notices would be placed in Birkenhead Town Hall and on the internet, there would be a press release then local MP's would be invited to comment and anyone who wishes to comment would be invited to do so. Details of these comments would be published on a paper notification in Birkenhead Town Hall, on the internet and as part of a press release.

The Chair thanked the Electoral team for their ongoing hard work.

On a motion by Councillor M Redfern and seconded by Councillor M Sullivan, it was –

Resolved – That the Polling Place and Polling District review be undertaken and any proposed changes to current arrangements be presented for consideration at the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee meeting on 23 November 2023.

LICENSING PANEL

Wednesday, 16 August 2023

Present:

Councillors S Bennett
G Davies
B Hall
K Murphy
J Stewart Laing

31 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair, it was –

Resolved – That the Vice-Chair, Councillor S Bennett be appointed Chair for this meeting.

32 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

33 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - RENAULT TRAFIC, REGISTRATION NUMBER LX61 DGE**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Renault Trafic, registration number LX61 DGE, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 3 September 2018 and the current licence was due to expire on 21 August 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 21 February 2012. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The Fleet Manager, on behalf of the proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Renault Traffic, registration number LX61 DGE, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

34 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - IVECO-FORD DAILY, REGISTRATION NUMBER WA60 EWG**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license an Iveco-Ford Daily, registration number WA60 EWG, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 31 August 2018 and the current licence was due to expire on 16 August 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 20 December 2010. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The Fleet Manager, on behalf of the proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Iveco-Ford Daily, registration number WA60 EWG, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

35 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - TOYOTA AVENSIS, REGISTRATION NUMBER MX63 AKJ**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Toyota Avensis, registration number MX63 AKJ, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 8 August 2014 and the current licence was due to expire on 3 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 4 September 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The licensed driver, on behalf of the proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Toyota Avensis, registration number MX63 AKJ, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

36 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - FORD TRANSIT CONNECT, REGISTRATION NUMBER SF66 DUA**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Ford Transit Connect, registration number SF66 DUA, outside the current criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles which states that the vehicle must be capable of carrying at least 4 and not more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver. The vehicle had been manufactured to be wheelchair accessible and to carry one wheelchair passenger whilst seated in their wheelchair and two further passengers who are not seated in a wheelchair. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 7 September 2016. Should the application be granted it would be necessary for the vehicle to be examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations for it to receive a valid MOT and Compliance certificate.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected. The applicant set out details as to how he intended to operate the vehicle which is capable of transporting a variety of wheelchair models and mobility scooters. He advised the Panel that should the Licence be granted for the vehicle he would apply for a Private Hire Operator Licence.

In making their decision Members gave particular regard to the fact that by granting the application, this would increase mobility for individuals who wish to travel whilst seated in their wheelchairs.

Resolved –

- (1) That the application to license the Ford Transit Connect, registration number SF66 DUA, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted.**
- (2) That the following conditions be applied to the Private Hire Vehicle Licence which will also be applied to the Private Hire Operator Licence:**
 - All bookings must be made at least 24 hours in advance.**
 - At least one passenger must be a wheelchair user who remains seated in their wheelchair during the journey.**

37 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of

Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

38 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE REVIEW (MDFM)

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether MDFM should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

MDFM attended the meeting with their daughter and made representations. MDFM responded to questions from Members and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members considered carefully the responses made by MDFM.

In determining the matter Members gave serious consideration to their overriding responsibility in respect of the protection and safety of the public. The Panel applied the principle of proportionality enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998 and considered that in seeking to ensure the legitimate aim of the protection and safety of the public, a revocation of the licence with immediate effect was justified in the circumstances.

Resolved – That, in the interests of public safety, MDFM’s Private Hire Driver Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

Councillor B Hall left the meeting prior to consideration of the following matter.

39 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE REVIEW (SJMCC)

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether SJMcC should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

SJMcC attended the meeting with their legal representative and made representations. SJMcC responded to questions from Members and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members considered carefully the responses made by SJMcC.

In determining the matter Members gave serious consideration to their overriding responsibility in respect of the protection and safety of the public. The Panel applied the principle of proportionality enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998 and considered that in seeking to ensure the legitimate aim of the protection and safety of the public, a revocation of the licence with immediate effect was justified in the circumstances.

Resolved – That, in the interests of public safety, SJMcC’s Private Hire Driver Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

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LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 8 September 2023

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the venue for this meeting was inaccessible to vehicles further to roadworks being carried out. Therefore, as the matters for consideration were predominantly vehicle inspections, the scheduled meeting was vacated and considered inquorate. The matters listed for consideration were deferred and will be considered at the next Licensing Panel on 15 September 2023.

- 40 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
- 41 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - AUDI A5,
REGISTRATION NUMBER KX63 ZKV
- 42 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - LEXUS CT200H,
REGISTRATION NUMBER DK63 OYT
- 43 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VAUXHALL ZAFIRA,
REGISTRATION NUMBER AF13 PSY
- 44 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VOLKSWAGEN
PASSAT, REGISTRATION NUMBER VO13 NMV
- 45 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - RENAULT MASTER,
REGISTRATION NUMBER EX59 GNK
- 46 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - CITROEN RELAY,
REGISTRATION NUMBER GN61 JVW
- 47 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - FORD TOURNEO,
REGISTRATION NUMBER AJ12 NVA
- 48 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - CITROEN RELAY,
REGISTRATION NUMBER BX12 BVL
- 49 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC
- 50 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (SLS)
- 51 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (DRL)
- 52 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (MME)

LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 15 September 2023

Present:

Councillors S Bennett
G Davies
B Hall
R Pitt

Vice Chair in the Chair

53 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

54 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - AUDI A5, REGISTRATION NUMBER KX63 ZKV**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license an Audi A5, registration number KX63 ZKV, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 9 June 2021 and the current licence was due to expire on 15 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 2 September 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Audi A5, registration number KX63 ZKV, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

55 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - LEXUS CT200H, REGISTRATION NUMBER DK63 OYT**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Lexus CT200H, registration number DK63 OYT, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 18 August 2016 and the current licence was due to expire on 19 September 2023. The date of first registration of the

vehicle was 20 September 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Lexus CT200H, registration number DK63 OYT, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

56 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VAUXHALL ZAFIRA, REGISTRATION NUMBER AF13 PSY**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Vauxhall Zafira, registration number AF13 PSY, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 25 November 2019 and the current licence was due to expire on 22 September 2023. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Vauxhall Zafira, registration number AF13 PSY, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

57 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT, REGISTRATION NUMBER VO13 NMV**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Volkswagen Passat, registration number VO13 NMV, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 10 June 2016 and the current licence was due to expire on 25 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 25 March 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Volkswagen Passat, registration number VO13 NMV, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for

six months subject to a Licensing Officer being satisfied that the spare tyre is compliant with the criteria for licensing Private Hire Vehicles.

58 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - RENAULT MASTER, REGISTRATION NUMBER EX59 GNK**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Renault Master, registration number EX59 GNK, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 21 March 2019 and the current licence was due to expire on 19 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 21 September 2009. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Renault Master, registration number EX59 GNK, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months subject to the roof lining being repaired.

59 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - CITROEN RELAY, REGISTRATION NUMBER GN61 JVW**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Citroen Relay, registration number GN61 JVW, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 23 October 2018 and the current licence was due to expire on 15 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 9 January 2012. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Citroen Relay, registration number GN61 JVW, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

60 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - FORD TOURNEO, REGISTRATION NUMBER AJ12 NVA**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Ford Tourneo, registration number AJ12 NVA, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 23 December 2019 and the current licence was due to expire on 15 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 13 June 2012. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Ford Tourneo, registration number AJ12 NVA, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

61 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - CITROEN RELAY, REGISTRATION NUMBER BX12 BVL**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Citroen Relay, registration number BX12 BVL, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 2 January 2020 and the current licence was due to expire on 22 September 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 15 March 2012. It was reported that should a licence be granted, the vehicle would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Council to transport children to and from educational establishments. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Citroen Relay, registration number BX12 BVL, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months subject to the driver's side rear wheel being replaced.

62 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

63 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (SLS)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether SLS should be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

SLS attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. SLS responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved - That SLS's application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

64 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (DRL)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether DRL should be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

DRL attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. DRL responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved (3:1) (Councillor G Davies abstaining) - That DRL's application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

65 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (MME)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether MME should be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

MME attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. MME responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved (3:1) (Councillor S Bennett dissenting) - That MME's application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

LICENSING PANEL

Thursday, 21 September 2023

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)
C Cooke
B Hall

66 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

67 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

68 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (JMW)

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether JMW should be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

JMW attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. JMW responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved - That JMW's application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

69 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE REVIEW (NRPJ)

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether NRPJ should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

NRPJ attended the meeting and made representations. NRPJ responded to questions from Members and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members considered carefully the responses made by NRPJ.

Members gave due consideration to all of the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved –

- (1) That NRPJ be allowed to continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.**
- (2) That NRPJ be issued with a final written warning as to their future conduct.**

LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 13 October 2023

Present: Councillors A Hodson (Chair)
G Davies
M Sullivan

70 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

71 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - FORD MONDEO, REGISTRATION NUMBER YT63 OML

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Ford Mondeo, registration number YT63 OML, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 14 August 2019 and the current licence was due to expire on 13 October 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 30 September 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Ford Mondeo, registration number YT63 OML, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

72 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VAUXHALL INSIGNIA, REGISTRATION NUMBER DV63 OKF

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Vauxhall Insignia, registration number DV63 OKF, outside the current age policy for licensing Private Hire Vehicles. The vehicle had first been licensed as a Private Hire Vehicle on 17 January 2022 and the current licence was due to expire on 30 October 2023. The date of first registration of the vehicle was 31 October 2013. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the MOT and Compliance pass certificates had been provided to Members.

The proprietor of the vehicle attended the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to license the Vauxhall Insignia, registration number DV63 OKF, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted for six months.

73 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE - PEUGEOT E7, REGISTRATION NUMBER SF61 EHK**

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Peugeot Expert E7, registration number SF61 EHK, outside the current age policy for licensing Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

The proprietor of the vehicle did not attend the meeting.

Resolved – That the applicant attend a future meeting of the Licensing Panel should they wish to pursue the application.

74 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

75 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATIONS (RJW)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether RJW should be granted a Hackney Carriage Licence and a Private Hire Driver Licence.

RJW attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. RJW responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved - That RJW's application for a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence and a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

76 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE REVIEW (KJP)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether KJP should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence and a Private Hire Operator Licence.

KJP attended the meeting and made representations. KJP responded to questions from Members and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members considered carefully the responses made by KJP.

Members gave due consideration to all of the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved –

- (1) That KJP's Private Hire Driver Licence be suspended with immediate effect subject to the satisfactory completion of a Taxi Driver Re-training Course.**
- (2) That KJP must enrol on and satisfactorily complete the next available Level 2 National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) course for the Taxi and Private Hire Industry.**
- (3) That KJP be issued with a written warning as to their future conduct in relation to their Private Hire Driver Licence and their Private Hire Operator Licence.**

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LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 20 October 2023

Present: Councillor A Hodson (Chair)
S Bennett
G Davies
B Hall
J Stewart Laing

77 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor S Bennett declared a personal interest in Item 2 – Private Hire Vehicle Licence Application – Volvo V40, Registration Number WK15 ZFH, by virtue of being acquainted with the applicant (minute 78 refers).

78 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - VOLVO V40, REGISTRATION NUMBER WK15 ZFH

Councillor S Bennett declared a personal interest in this matter and left the room during its consideration (minute 77 refers).

The Director of Law and Governance reported upon an application received to license a Volvo V40, registration number WK15 ZFH, as a Private Hire Vehicle outside the current criteria which states that side and rear windows must allow at least 70% of light to be transmitted through.

The current criteria that vehicles must comply with before being granted a Private Hire Vehicle Licence as set out in the Statement of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy states that: The front windscreen must let at least 75% of light through and all other windows must let at least 70% of light through. It was reported that the rear passenger windows allow 65% of light through and also that the step into the vehicle measures more than 38cm.

It was reported that the date of first registration of the vehicle was 19 May 2015 and that should the application be granted it would be necessary for the vehicle to be examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations in order for it to receive a valid MOT and Compliance certificate.

The applicant attended the meeting with the vehicle which was inspected by Members.

Members requested that a Licensing Officer conduct a further inspection of the vehicle and it was subsequently reported that the rear passenger windows allow 71-72% of light through which therefore complied with the current criteria.

Resolved –

- (1) That due to the vehicle complying with the current criteria, the application to license the Volvo V40, registration number WK15 ZFH, as a Private Hire Vehicle be granted.**
- (2) That the vehicle be licensed with an exemption from carrying a portable step.**

79 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.

80 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION (JCW)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether JCW should be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

JCW attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the application. JCW responded to questions from Members of the Panel and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members gave due consideration to the representations made and exercised their rights to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved - That JCW's application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be granted.

81 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE REVIEW (MKM)**

The Director of Law and Governance submitted a report for Members to consider whether MKM should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

MKM attended the meeting with their representative and a relative and made representations. MKM and their representative responded to questions from Members and the legal advisor to the Panel.

Members considered carefully the responses made by MKM and their representative.

In determining the matter Members gave serious consideration to their overriding responsibility in respect of the protection and safety of the public. The Panel applied the principle of proportionality enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998 and considered that in seeking to ensure the legitimate aim of the protection and safety of the public, a revocation of the licence with immediate effect was justified in the circumstances.

Resolved – That, in the interests of public safety, MKM’s Private Hire Driver Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

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REGULATORY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Thursday 23rd November 2023

REPORT TITLE:	HONORARY FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH SUE HIGGINSON, OBE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW & GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)

REPORT SUMMARY

Under the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman of the Borough to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent Service to the Borough.

This is a very significant step for the Council to take. Very few people have been awarded this status and, it should only be awarded to someone who has made an exceptional contribution to the Borough. Sue Higginson falls within this category.

Past recipients of this award are:

1993 Lt. Commander Ian Fraser, VC
1996 Mr. Joseph Lynch, GC, BEM (GAL)
2005 Mr. Ray Holmes
2006 The Right Reverend David Urquhart
2006 Lord Chan of Oxton
2010 Mr. Stephen Maddox, OBE
2016 PC David Phillips
2017 The Hillsborough 96
2019 Doctor Nunzia Bertali
2019 2nd Lt. Jay Frederick Simpson USAF
2022 Baron Frank Field of Birkenhead
2022 Andrew Devine
2023 Paul O'Grady
2023 Glenda Jackson

If recommended and a scroll will be presented to Sue Higginson by the Mayor.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is requested to recommend to Council that:

- (1) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and in recognition of her dedicated service to the Borough, that Sue Higginson be admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough at an Extraordinary Council Meeting to be held on 04th December 2023
- (2) The Head of Democratic and Member Services be requested to take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange for a small civic reception for Sue Higginson and invited guests on a mutually agreeable date following the Extraordinary Meeting of Council

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To honour Sue Higginson OBE for her eminent service to the Borough and the people of Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The alternative option is not to recommend that Sue Higginson be admitted as Honorary Freewoman of this Borough.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The origin of the Freedom of the Borough goes back to early medieval times, when with the growth of the great English towns, there emerged a class of citizen known as Freemen, who enjoyed important privileges in the government of their own and in the matter of corporate property, as against strangers and the rest of the inhabitants.
- 3.2 With the passing of the Honorary Freedom of the Boroughs Act 1885 the dignity attached to the Office of Freeman was revived and enhanced. This Act conferred upon all Municipal Corporations the power to admit as an Honorary Freeman of the Borough “persons of distinction and any persons who have rendered eminent services to the Borough”. This can only be achieved by the Council voting at a specially called meeting.
- 3.3 The Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the Council can bestow.
- 3.4 Sue Higginson OBE has worked in further education for 33 years and has served as the Principal and Chief Executive at the Wirral Metropolitan College for 11 years. Over the past 10 years Sue and her team have transformed the college and seen a growth in the student roll to around 10,000. Sue is the Principal and CEO of Wirral Metropolitan College, the largest Further Education College in Wirral, leading over 500 staff and managing a turnover of approximately £23m. Sue retired from her post at the college in July 2023.
- 3.5 Sue has wide experience in the Further Education and Higher Education Sectors, as well as having previously worked in a number of private sectors, and multi-national organisations, focusing on improving quality and business efficiency through the development of people, communication and the supply chain.
- 3.6 Sue initially joined the College to develop strategic partnerships with business and industry, designing Further and Higher education programmes to develop a highly skilled, flexible workforce. Sue has led several flagship projects that have transformed the College’s approach to supporting business and industry. She was appointed Principal of Wirral Metropolitan College in 2012, having previously been a member of the College’s senior management team where she led the agendas on Quality Improvement, Partnership and Business Development.

- 3.7 Sue is also a Non-Executive Director and Vice Chair of the Association of Colleges, Vice Chair of The Association of Liverpool City Region Colleges and a keen supporter of Wirral Chamber of Commerce and Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). Sue works closely with the Combined Authority and the Local Authority to support effective public sector leadership in the region, with a focus on improving business efficiency and growth by helping people aspire, develop, and achieve.
- 3.8 Sue is a qualified teacher in further and higher education and holds an MBA and several post graduate qualifications in management and leadership; she is a member of MENSA, a Fellow of the Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM); a Chartered Manager and a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute.
- 3.9 As the Principal and CEO of the Wirral Metropolitan College, Sue Higginson was honoured with the Silver Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Pearson National Awards in June 2023. The Award for Lifetime Achievement is for those who have dedicated their life to the teaching profession and have had a significant and positive impact on the people they have worked with over the course of their teaching career, from pupils and colleagues to educational stakeholders and within their local community, and not only in their current schools, but throughout their teaching career. Their commitment to, and passion for, education is exemplary to all.
- 3.10 Sue has also supported the Mayors of Wirral Council for many years, offering the services of students and the catering facilities of Wirral Met College to host functions for Civic Dignitaries and provide catering free of charge for the Mayor's Charity tea dances.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The modest financial implications can be met from within existing budgets as detailed above.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for the purpose with notice of the purpose, admit Sue Higginson to be Honorary Freewoman of Wirralas in its opinion rendered eminent service to the Borough. (Section 249(5), of the Local Government Act 1972.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications associated with staffing, ICT or assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are no known risks associated with this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted and support the proposals.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. Measuring the impact of equality implications and mitigating any negative impact where possible is embedded into the core principles of good governance. There are no equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report is for information purposes and as such, there are no direct environment and climate implications.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no direct Community Wealth Implications arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Kris Cureton
Civic & Electoral Services Manager
Tel: 0151 691 8507
Email: kriscureton@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution Part 5, Section 19
Online source: LinkedIn
WMC.ac.uk
Teachingawardstrust.com

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee in accordance with Section 8.2 of its Terms of Reference

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regulatory and General Purposes Committee	7 June 2023
Regulatory and General Purposes Committee	7 September 2023



REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE	CONCLUSION OF STATUTORY REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS AND PLACES 2023
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the consultation outcome following the statutory polling place and polling district review which was undertaken in September/October 2023 following approval to undertake a consultation by the Committee on 07th September 2023.

The Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) must conduct a statutory review of polling places and polling districts every five years. Statutory reviews can commence no earlier than 1st October 2023 and must be completed within 16 months. It must be completed no later than 31 January 2025.

The statutory responsibility for reviewing UK Parliamentary polling districts and places rests with each relevant local authority in Great Britain for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area.

The recommendations contained within this report meet the objectives in the Wirral Plan 2021 – 26 in respect to the safe and pleasant communities and inclusive economy.

The recommendations in this report do not constitute a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is recommended to consider the outcomes of the consultation and agree that it is not necessary to change any of the current polling places as a result of the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1** The local authority has a statutory duty to undertake a full review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places within the Borough and make such changes as are considered necessary to ensure they remain accessible to all electors.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1** No other options were considered. It is a statutory requirement to undertake the review.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** The Local Authority has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide Wirral Borough into Polling Districts and to designate Polling Places for each Polling District.
- 3.2** The Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to undertake a full review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every four years.
- 3.3** The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of the reviews to five-yearly and, in line with this legislation, a full review was last undertaken by the local authority in 2019.
- 3.4** This statutory review determines that it must be started and completed between 1 October 2023 and 31 January 2025 (inclusive).
- 3.5** Local government election arrangements are not automatically part of this review, however, as they are the same for both Parliamentary and local government elections within the Wirral area, it is considered sensible to conduct both reviews together.
- 3.6** The purpose of the review is to principally ensure that:
- all electors in the borough have such reasonable facilities for voting as are practicable in the circumstances; and,
 - so far as reasonable and practicable, the polling districts, places and stations are accessible to all electors including those who are disabled and when considering the designation of a polling place to have regard to the accessibility needs of disabled persons; and,
 - where there is no fully accessible building conveniently located for the electors in an area, where it is necessary to use a place where the access is not ideal then every reasonable adjustment must be undertaken to provide access for all Electors.

- 3.7** The specific areas of focus for the review are polling districts and the location of polling places and polling stations within the Borough: -

Polling District is a geographical area created by the sub-division of an electoral area, for example a Parliamentary constituency, or a ward.

Polling Place is a building (for example, a school or community centre) or area in which a polling station is located.

Polling Station is the physical location (for example, the room) in which polling takes place and is designated by the Returning Officer.

3.8 Roles and Responsibilities

The local authority has the statutory responsibility for reviewing polling districts and places rests with the local authority for so much of any constituency as is situated in its area.

The Electoral Registration Officer must, where there are any alterations to the polling districts within its area, amend the register of electors accordingly. This is done either on a notice of alteration or by publishing a revised register. The changes to the register take effect on the date the Electoral Registration Officer publishes a separate notice stating that the alterations have been made, which should be done to coincide with the publication of a notice of alteration/publication of a revised register.

The (Acting) Returning Officer must comment during any review of polling districts and polling places on both existing polling stations and the polling stations that would probably be used if any new proposal for polling places were accepted.

- 3.9** The length of the review process is not prescribed, provided all the steps required by the legislation can be undertaken within the time limit. The time allowed for consultation should be sufficient to enable interested persons and groups to read and understand the proposals, gather comments, and respond with any alternative arrangements that they may wish to submit.

- 3.10** The review commenced on 02nd of October 2023 and concluded on the 10th of November 2023. Any proposed changes to the Electoral Register will be made and effective upon the publication of the Register on 1st December 2023 (subject to Committee decision) .

3.11 Notification of the Review

The review formally commenced on 02nd of October 2023 with the publication of a formal notice at Birkenhead Town Hall and a publication on the Council's website. Notices were also published on the Council's social media and online channels.

Notification of the review and how to participate was sent to elected representatives, local political party offices and local disability and community groups, and a press release was issued to provide general notification of the review.

Representations and comments were sought from electors, Councillors, MPs, the (Acting) Returning Officer and those with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for disabled people with regards to existing Polling Districts and Places.

3.12 Outcome of Consultation

Electoral Services received representations from electors and Ward Councillors. Representations were received in the form of 39 'Have your say' responses and one email from a Ward Councillor.

- Twenty respondents commented that overall, they were satisfied with the current arrangements.
- Seven respondents commented on the general dissatisfaction with using schools as polling places.
- Three respondents commented that they found it difficult to park at their polling station.
- Two respondents' comments did not relate to areas considered to be part of the review.
- An email received from a Ward Councillor requested that a review of the northern boundary of polling district's VA and VC be undertaken to allow for the consideration of moving the polling place at Oldershaw Rugby Club to the Wallasey Cricket Club. Officers visited the Wallasey Cricket Club and determined it to be unsuitable for use as a polling station. The only available room for use as a polling station at the cricket club was accessed via a flight of stairs. No disabled access was available. As a result, the Ward Councillor has requested that we do not proceed any further with the request to review the polling district boundaries in that area.
- One elector responded to request that their property, which is currently located in polling district CE, be moved to polling district CD along with three neighbouring properties. This request was made to enable the electors at these properties to vote at a closer polling station. The request will be considered as part of the wider Local Ward Boundary review.
- The Council's (Acting) Returning Officer submitted comments on 02 October 2023, as required on existing polling stations. The comments stated that the current arrangements offer the most reasonable facilities for voting.

3.13 Conclusion and recommendations

The review and consultation has been useful in that it has demonstrated that the public and elected representatives are largely satisfied with the current arrangements and so it is recommended that the existing polling districts and polling places remain unchanged.

In relation to using schools as polling places, the electoral services team continually review the use of schools. Wirral has one hundred and three polling places. In 2019 forty-five schools were used as polling places, this number has been reduced to thirty-four at the May 2023 election. This equates to less than one third.

The rules that govern the conduct of elections give the (Acting) Returning Officer a statutory right to use, free of charge, schools maintained or assisted by a local authority as well as those schools that receive grants made from moneys provided by Parliament. This includes academies and free schools.

The decision to close the school falls on the headteacher and will usually depend upon whether arrangements can be made for voting to take place separately from the rest of the school premises. Where possible, the (Acting) Returning Officer and the school will make such arrangements for the school to remain open, however, pupil safety must always be considered as paramount and if the school decides to close on the day of the poll and it is not reasonably practicable to arrange an alternative day to try and make up the lost education, the school will be treated as if it had met the requisite 190 days for the purposes of the school year regulations.

Clear guidance is provided to schools on this matter so there should be no misunderstanding about the legal position and the need for schools to co-operate in making rooms available for polling station use. Any reluctance to use schools as polling places despite the statutory position would lead to an increase in the use of private buildings or mobile units even where the most reasonable facilities could be provided within a school which would then incur additional costs.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. If alternative polling places are identified as part of this review, additional resources may need to be identified to fund the consequent building and staffing costs. Any such additional costs will be dealt with in the subsequent report and recommendations to Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The local authority has a duty under the Representation of the People Act 1983 to divide Wirral Borough into Polling Districts and to designate Polling Places for each Polling District.
- 5.2 The Electoral Administration Act 2006 placed a duty on all local authorities to undertake a full review of their Parliamentary polling districts and polling places every four years.

- 5.3 The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 introduced a change to the timing of the reviews to five-yearly and, in line with this legislation, a full review was last undertaken by the local authority in 2019.
- 5.4 There is a legal duty on the local authority to provide accommodation for polling stations with the Representation of the People Act 1983, Chapter 2, Schedule 1, Part III, paragraph 22.
- 5.5 Polling stations must be accessible to all -Section 20, 29 and 31, Equality Act 2010.
- 5.6 Provision of polling stations. The Returning Officer must provide enough polling stations and, subject to the following provisions of this rule, must allot the electors to the polling stations in such manner as he thinks most convenient - Rule 23(1-4), The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Undertaking this review will impact on resources in respect of officer time, particularly as the period of this review traverses the annual canvass of the Electoral Register. It is anticipated that these requirements can be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council has a statutory duty to complete a Polling Districts and Places Review by 31 January 2025. In addition, the Review provides a further opportunity for the Council to ensure accessibility to all Electors, mitigate any potential hazards and health and safety risks; and ensure that the Council addresses any identified risks affecting any potential Electors, particularly if they suffer from a disability.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Acting Returning Officer (ARO) published notice of this review and consulted with interested groups, including those with expertise in relation to access to premises or facilities for disabled people, or bodies including electors, political parties, MPs and members of the council.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has an ongoing responsibility under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (S149) to take equality implications into consideration in policy decision, implementation, and day to day activities. The impact on those with protected characteristics under the Act will be taken into consideration during this exercise when assessing the overall suitability of a venue. Any changes to venues and or arrangements will be assessed with equality impacts in mind and other voting practices such as proxy and postal voting remains in place for those who wish to use it.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no known environmental or climate implications arising from this report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no known community wealth implications arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Kris Cureton
Civic & Electoral Services Manager
email: kriscureton@wirral.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Electoral Administration Act 2006
Representation of the People Act 1983
The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013
Equality Act 2010
The Local Elections (Principal Areas) (England and Wales) Rules 2006.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is presented to Committee in accordance with section 8.2(i) of the Committees terms of reference.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regulatory & General Purposes Committee	Thursday 20th Jan 2022
Regulatory & General Purposes Committee	Wednesday 16th Nov 2022
Regulatory & General Purposes Committee	Wednesday 01st Feb 2023
Regulatory & General Purposes Committee	Thursday 7th September 2023



REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE	HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCES
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to remove the limit on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles that may be licensed in Wirral.

The Wirral Plan sets out a number of priorities for the council to consider and the contents of this report supports the priority of working for a prosperous, inclusive economy – helping businesses to thrive and creating jobs and opportunities for all.

This matter affects all Wards and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee remove the limit on the number of licences that may be granted in respect of Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 On 23 January 2012 this Committee resolved to impose a limit of 289 on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that could be issued by the Council. This decision was reviewed by this Committee on 1 February 2018 when it was resolved that the limit should be maintained. Since that date there has been a significant reduction in the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles that are licensed in Wirral from 285 vehicles at the time the limit was initially imposed to the current number which is 160. It is therefore considered no longer necessary to limit the number of vehicles that may be licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The option of taking no action to remove the limit has been considered as the number of licences available under this limit means that the Council currently do not have to refuse an application for a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence on the grounds that the limit has been met. It is considered unnecessary to maintain a limit that has no material effect. It is therefore suggested that it is appropriate to remove the limit.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In order to limit the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral the Council must be satisfied that there is no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriages. The usual method of ascertaining the level of demand is by means of an independent survey to establish the level of demand for Hackney Carriages. This is necessary in order to provide evidence that the demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles is met should the Council want to refuse to grant a licence in order to control the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles
- 3.2 On 23 January 2012 Members of this Committee resolved to impose a limit of 289 on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences that could be issued by the Council. The limit was set at 289 following recommendations made by Halcrow Group Limited who undertook an independent study of the demand for Hackney Carriages in Wirral during June 2011. This figure reflected the number of vehicles licensed at that time.
- 3.3 On the 1 February 2018 following a further unmet Demand Survey carried out in 2017, this Committee resolved to maintain the limit of 289 Hackney Carriage Vehicles. The number of vehicles licensed at that time was 258.
- 3.4 There are currently 164 vehicles licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles and therefore there is the potential for 129 further vehicles to be licensed within the current limit. Due to the number of licences that are available within the limit set by this Committee it is highly unlikely that the Council will find itself in the position that it has to refuse to grant a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence due to the limit on the number of licences that the Council will issue.

- 3.5 The number of licences currently available reflects a significant decline in the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral and therefore it is considered that the current limit of 289 is no longer necessary.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The reduction in the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed does have an impact on the income received by the Licensing Authority and this is being kept under review by the Licensing Manager.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The primary legislation governing the licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles is the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Transport Act 1985.
- 5.2 Prior to the Transport Act 1985 Licensing Authorities had an unfettered discretion to limit the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles that it would license. Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985 removed that unrestricted power to limit the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles. As a consequence, the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles may be limited but only on the following basis;

‘the grant of a licence may be refused, for the purpose of limiting the number of hackney carriages in respect of which licences are granted, if but only if, the person authorised to grant licences is satisfied that there is no significant demand for the services of hackney carriages (within the area to which the licence would apply) which is unmet’.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There has been a reduction in the income received relating to the licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles which does have an impact on the financing of resources within the Licensing Service. The cost of delivering the service against the income received is being monitored by the Licensing Manager.

7.0 RISKS

- 7.1 The removal of the restriction to issue Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences does not present a risk, however the reduction in the number of vehicles licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles does reduce the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles in Wirral. This does present a risk that individuals seeking to hire a wheelchair accessible vehicle may not be able to do so.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The imposition of a limit on the number of Hackney Carriage Licences would require an independent survey which would include consultation. There is no statutory requirement to consult upon the removal of a limit. It is considered that the removal of the limit, in the current circumstances where there is such a significant gap of 129 between the limit that has been set and the number of vehicles licensed, will have no impact on either the Hackney Carriage Trade or the public. It is therefore not

considered necessary to undertake formal consultation in respect of removing the limit of vehicles that can be licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. The Equality Impact Assessment relevant to the proposed removal of the limit on the number of vehicles that may be licensed as Hackney Carriage Vehicles is attached via the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Petrol and diesel vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.

10.2 Hybrid and electric cars emit less greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol and diesel cars. (Source: European Environment Agency Report 2018).

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The availability of Hackney Carriage Vehicles can serve to support the positive growth of businesses in Wirral.

REPORT AUTHOR: Margaret O'Donnell
Licensing Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8606
email: margaretodonnell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Town and Police Clauses Act 1847

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

The Transport Act 1985

Wirral Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Study 2011

Independent Survey of the Supply and Demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles 2018

European Environment Agency Report 2018

Current list of licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee who are delegated to determine such matters in accordance with Section 8.2 of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee's Terms of Reference set out in the constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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REGULATORY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider whether to amend the current Hackney Carriage Fares.

The Wirral Plan sets out a number of priorities for the council to consider and the contents of this report supports the priority of working for a prosperous, inclusive economy – helping businesses to thrive and creating jobs and opportunities for all.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a Key Decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is recommended to consider the proposal set out in this report as summarised at paragraph 3.5 of this report to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares and determine whether it is appropriate to approve the proposals subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 A proposal to amend the current Hackney Carriage Fares has been received from Unite the Union on behalf of their members who are Hackney Carriage Drivers licensed by Wirral Council. Any such proposal is delegated to this Committee for determination.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Committee could determine that there should be no change to the Hackney Carriage Fares or that an alternative proposal should be the subject of consultation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The authority given to the council to set Hackney Carriage Fares is set out in paragraph 5 of this report.
- 3.2 The current Hackney Carriage Fares came into effect on 1 September 2022. A copy of the current fare table is attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 3.3 The proposal to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares, submitted by Unite the Union is attached at Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.4 The Hackney Carriage Fares are applied in four different time-bands which are referred to as 'tariffs'. The four current tariffs are set out below:

Tariff 1 Day Rate (6.00am to 9.59pm)

Tariff 2 Night Rate (10.00pm to 5.59am)
Public and Bank Holidays Day Rate (6.00am – 9.59pm)

Tariff 3 Public and Bank Holidays Night Rate (10.00pm – 5.59am)

Tariff 4 Christmas and New Year Rate

The Christmas rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on Christmas Eve until 5.59am on 27 December.

The New Year rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on New Year's Eve until 5.59am on 2 January.

- 3.5 The proposal to amend the Hackney Carriage Fares includes an amendment to the current tariffs, in respect of Public and Bank Holidays. The proposed tariffs are set out below:

Tariff 1 Day Rate (6.00am to 9.59pm)

Tariff 2 Night Rate (10.00pm to 5.59am)

Tariff 3 Public and Bank Holidays Rate

Tariff 4 Christmas and New Year Rate

The Christmas rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on Christmas Eve until 5.59am on 27 December.

The New Year rate is defined as the period from 6.00pm on New Year's Eve until 5.59am on 2 January.

- 3.6 A table comparing the current Hackney Carriage Fares with the proposed fares is attached at Appendix 3 to this report.
- 3.7 Hackney Carriage Fares which apply to neighbouring Local Authorities in the Liverpool City Region, and Ellesmere Port & Neston (within Cheshire West and Chester Council) have been provided for comparison purposes and are attached at Appendix 4 to this report.
- 3.8 Should Members approve the amendments to the current Hackney Carriage Fares, the proposal must be advertised for a period of at least fourteen days. If no objections to the proposal are received, the revised fares could become effective in December 2023. Should the Licensing Authority receive any objections to the proposals they will be reported back to this Committee for further consideration in January 2024.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of the public advertisement is estimated to be £200.00 which will be recovered from licence fees.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 65(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the local authority power to set Hackney Carriage Fares as follows:
1. A District Council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of a hackney carriage by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a 'table of fares') made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
 2. When a District Council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There is an impact on Licensing resources as any change to the Hackney Carriage Fares requires the meters in Hackney Carriage Vehicles to be re-calibrated which then need to be checked by Licensing Officers. This work will be carried out within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Any change to Hackney Carriage Fares requires the following statutory consultation to take place. A notice will be published in a local newspaper which circulates in the borough. The notice will set out the table of fares or the variation and specify the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made. In addition to the statutory consultation the Licensing Authority will inform all Hackney Carriage Licence Holders of any proposed changes to the current Hackney Carriage Fares and will publish any proposals on the Council website.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. The Equality Impact Assessment relevant to a proposed increase in Hackney Carriage Fares is attached via the link below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Hackney Carriage Vehicles contribute to harmful emissions including particulate matter, hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide which can be harmful to health.
- 10.2 Hybrid and electric cars emit less greenhouse gases and air pollutants than petrol and diesel cars. (*Source: European Environment Agency report 2018*)

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The availability of Hackney Carriage Vehicles can serve to support the positive growth of businesses in Wirral.

REPORT AUTHOR: Andrew Bushell
Licensing Operations Manager
telephone: 0151 691 8018
email: andrewbushell@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Current Hackney Carriage Fares

Appendix 2 – Proposed Hackney Carriage Fares

Appendix 3 – Table Showing Effect of Proposal

Appendix 4 – Neighbouring Local Authorities' Hackney Carriage Fares

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Written Proposal from Unite the Union

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Hackney Carriage Fare Tables of Neighbouring Local Authorities

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee who are delegated to determine such matters in accordance with Section 8.2 of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee's Terms of Reference set out in the constitution.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Regulatory and General Purposes Committee	27 July 2022



HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The below table of fares is the **MAXIMUM** that can be charged within the Borough and up to 4 miles beyond the district boundary. Unless a separate fare has been **AGREED IN ADVANCE** for a hiring to a destination beyond 4 miles of the district boundary, the fare payable is that shown on the taximeter.

TARIFF 1		TARIFF 2	
DAY RATE 6.00am – 9.59pm		NIGHT RATE 10.00pm – 5.59am	
		PUBLIC & BANK HOLIDAYS 6.00am – 9.59pm	
First 300 yards (0.17 miles)	£3.60	First 1392 yards (0.79 miles)	£5.00
Each subsequent 207 yards (0.12 miles)	20p	Each subsequent 172 yards (0.10 miles)	20p
TARIFF 3			
PUBLIC and BANK HOLIDAYS		10.00pm – 5.59am	
First 1160 yards (0.66 miles)		£5.00	
Each subsequent 120 yards (0.07 miles)		20p	
TARIFF 4			
CHRISTMAS RATE	24 Dec 6.00pm – 27 Dec 5.59am		
NEW YEAR RATE	31 Dec 6.00pm – 2 Jan 5.59am		
First 880 yards (0.5 miles)		£5.00	
Each subsequent 107.5 yards (0.06 miles)		20p	

Extra Charges

Waiting time – for each minute or part thereof	30p	Carriage of bulky items	£5
Each animal (other than an assistance dogs)	£1.00	Fouling charge	£35
Each passenger in excess of two per journey (excluding children under 5 years of age)	10p	Tolls including return journey g. Mersey Tunnel to/from Liverpool)	

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The below table of fares is the **MAXIMUM** that can be charged within the Borough and up to 4 miles beyond the district boundary. Unless a separate fare has been **AGREED IN ADVANCE** for a hiring to a destination beyond 4 miles of the district boundary, the fare payable is that shown on the taximeter.

TARIFF 1 DAY RATE 6.00am – 9.59pm	TARIFF 2 NIGHT RATE 10.00pm – 5.59am
First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £3.60	First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £3.80
Each subsequent 175 yards (0.099 miles) 20p	Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 25p
TARIFF 3 PUBLIC and BANK HOLIDAY RATE	
First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £4.50	
Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 25p	
TARIFF 4 CHRISTMAS RATE 24 Dec 6.00pm – 27 Dec 5.59am	
NEW YEAR RATE 31 Dec 6.00pm – 2 Jan 5.59am	
First 300 yards (0.17 miles) £5.70	
Each subsequent 165 yards (0.094 miles) 40p	

Extra Charges

Waiting time – for each minute or part thereof	30p	Carriage of bulky items	£5.00
Each animal (other than an assistance dogs)	£1.00	Fouling charge	£35.00
Each passenger in excess of two per journey (excluding children under 5 years of age)	10p	Journeys terminating in Liverpool	£5.00

Table Showing Effect of Proposal

	Distance	Current Tariff	Proposed Tariff	Percentage Change
Tariff 1	1 mile	£5.00	£5.40	7%
	2 miles	£6.80	£7.40	8%
	3 miles	£8.40	£9.40	11%
	4 miles	£10.00	£11.40	12%
	5 miles	£11.60	£13.40	13%
	10 miles	£19.80	£23.40	15%
Tariff 2	1 mile	£5.60	£6.05	7%
	2 miles	£7.60	£8.80	14%
	3 miles	£9.60	£11.55	17%
	4 miles	£11.60	£14.05	17%
	5 miles	£13.80	£16.80	18%
	10 miles	£24.00	£30.05	20%
Tariff 3	1 mile	£6.00	£6.75	11%
	2 miles	£9.00	£9.50	5%
	3 miles	£12.00	£12.25	2%
	4 miles	£14.80	£14.75	0%
	5 miles	£17.80	£17.50	-2%
	10 miles	£32.40	£30.75	-5%
Tariff 4	1 mile	£6.80	£9.30	27%
	2 miles	£10.00	£13.70	27%
	3 miles	£13.20	£18.10	27%
	4 miles	£16.50	£22.10	25%
	5 miles	£19.80	£26.50	25%
	10 miles	£36.20	£47.70	24%

Neighbouring Local Authorities' Hackney Carriage Fares

Hackney Carriage Fares which apply to other Local Authorities in the Liverpool City Region, and also Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council) have been provided for comparison purposes.

The following table shows the comparative cost of using Hackney Carriage Vehicles in accordance with the proposal from Unite the Union and each of these areas.

In addition to the fare charged, each Local Authority sets their own *tariffs* which determine the days and times that each fare is charged. For the purpose of clarity details of each Local Authority's tariffs are included after the table.

Wirral Council (Proposed)

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£5.40	£7.40	£9.40	£11.40	£13.40	£23.40
Tariff 2	£6.05	£8.80	£11.55	£14.05	£16.80	£30.05
Tariff 3	£6.75	£9.50	£12.25	£14.75	£17.50	£30.75
Tariff 4	£9.30	£13.70	£18.10	£22.10	£26.50	£47.70

Liverpool Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Day Rate	£5.00	£6.80	£8.80	£10.60	£12.40	£21.60
Night Rate	£6.25	£8.50	£11.00	£13.25	£15.50	£27.00
Peak Rate	£6.95	£9.45	£11.95	£14.45	£16.95	£29.45
Extra Rate	£7.50	£10.20	£13.20	£15.90	£18.60	£32.40

Sefton Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.70	£6.70	£8.70	£10.50	£12.50	£22.30
Tariff 2	£5.85	£8.35	£10.85	£13.10	£15.60	£27.85
Tariff 3	£6.80	£9.80	£12.80	£15.50	£18.50	£33.20

St Helens Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Rate 1	£4.30	£6.30	£8.30	£10.30	£12.30	£22.30
Rate 2	£5.40	£8.20	£11.00	£13.80	£16.60	£30.60
Rate 3	£7.00	£10.60	£14.20	£17.80	£21.40	£39.20

Knowsley Council

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.80	£6.60	£8.60	£10.40	£12.20	£21.40
Tariff 2	£5.35	£7.15	£9.15	£10.95	£12.75	£21.95
Tariff 3	£7.20	£9.90	£12.90	£15.60	£18.30	£32.10

Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

	1 Mile	2 Miles	3 Miles	4 Miles	5 Miles	10 Miles
Tariff 1	£4.60	£6.40	£8.00	£9.80	£11.60	£20.40
Tariff 2	£5.75	£8.00	£10.00	£12.25	£14.50	£25.50
Tariff 3	£9.20	£12.80	£16.00	£19.60	£23.20	£40.80

Wirral Council (Proposed)

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 9:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 10:00pm – 05:59am
Tariff 3	Public and Bank Holidays 00:00am – 11:59pm (all day)
Tariff 4	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Liverpool Council

Day Rate	All journeys between 6:00am – 8:59pm
Night Rate	All journeys between 9:00pm – 05:59am and at any times on Easter Sunday and all Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year period)
Peak Rate	Saturday 11:00pm – Sunday 06:59am
Extra Rate	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Sefton Council

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 10:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 11:00pm – 5:59am and Fri/Sat 9:00pm – 5:59am Public Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year), Easter Sunday and the Grand National Festival Rank (from 4:00pm)
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

St Helens Council

Rate 1	08:01am – 10:59pm
Rate 2	All journeys between 11:00pm – 08:00am and Bank Holidays except as described in Rate 3, and Easter Sunday
Rate 3	24 Dec 10:00am – 27 Dec 07:59am and 31 Dec 10:00am – 2 Jan 07:59am

Knowsley Council

Tariff 1	All journeys between 6:00am – 8:59pm
Tariff 2	All journeys between 9:00pm – 05:59am and all Public Holidays except Christmas and New Year
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Ellesmere Port & Neston (Cheshire West and Chester Council)

Tariff 1	All journeys between 06:00am – 9:59pm
Tariff 2	Mon - Sun 10:00pm – 05:59am and anytime on Bank Holidays (other than Christmas and New Year)
Tariff 3	24 Dec 6:00pm – 27 Dec 05:59am and 31 Dec 6:00pm – 2 Jan 05:59am

Regulatory and General Purposes Committee – Terms of Reference

The principal role of the Regulatory and General Purposes Committee is as the administrative committee, established as an ordinary committee and acting under delegation pursuant to sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act 1972, and responsible for making decisions as licensing and registration authority on all regulatory matters not otherwise delegated to the Planning Committee or reserved to the Licensing Act Committee.

The Committee is charged by full Council to fulfil all of those functions, more particularly described as set out at Schedule 1 of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 (as amended), and associated matters, including but not limited to:

- (a) functions relating to licensing, registration and ancillary matters other than those falling within the remit of the Licensing Act Committee, including but not limited to:
 - acupuncture, tattooing, ear-piercing and electrolysis;
 - caravan sites;
 - charity collections and street collections;
 - hackney carriage and private hire vehicle licences, drivers and operators;
 - entertainments;
 - market and street trading,
 - pleasure boats and pleasure vessels;
 - scrap yards;
 - sex shops and sex establishments;
 - solemnisation of marriages;
 - theatres and cinemas;
 - zoos, animal trainers and exhibitors and dangerous wild animals;
- (b) functions relating to health and safety at work, to the extent that those functions are discharged otherwise than in the authority's capacity as an employer;
- (c) functions relating to sea fisheries;
- (d) functions relating to statutory nuisance and contaminated land;
- (e) the passing of a resolution that schedule 2 to The Noise and Statutory Nuisance Act 1993 should apply in the authority's area;
- (f) commons regulation and town and village greens, the power to apply for an enforcement order against unlawful works on registered common land, the power to protect unclaimed registered common land and unclaimed town or village greens against unlawful interference and the power to institute proceedings for offences in respect of unclaimed land;
- (g) the power to make a closing order on a takeaway food shop;
- (h) the obtaining of particulars of persons interested in land under section 16 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976;

- (f) functions relating to elections and electoral registration not otherwise reserved to Full Council, including the making of recommendations to the Council as to recommendations to the Secretary of State on ward boundaries;
- (g) Power to consider and make recommendations to the Council on matters relating to the name and status of the Borough and individuals; and
- (h) making recommendations to Council on the promotion or approval of local bill.