



Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee

Date: Wednesday, 23 January 2019

Time: 6.00 p.m.

Venue: Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. 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 application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2018.

3. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL (Pages 5 - 24)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the Licensing Panel held on 29 August, 14 September, 3 October, 12 October and 24 October 2018.

4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE LICENSING PANEL

To appoint a fourth Labour Member to the Licensing Panel who is required to replace a former Labour Member.

5. WIRRAL AWARD (Pages 25 - 28)

**6. PETITION: POLLING STATION FOR HOLMLANDS ESTATE
OXTON (Pages 29 - 50)**

7. **CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE (Pages 51 - 56)**
8. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR**

LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 19 September 2018

Present: Councillor R L Abbey (Chair)

Councillors G Wood A Hodson
W J Davies M Jordan
C Meaden I Lewis
P Stuart D Mitchell

10 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 application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

11 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2018 and the special meeting held on 18 July 2018 be approved.

12 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING PANEL

Resolved – That the minutes of the Licensing Panels held on 8 June, 13 July and 10 August 2018 be approved.

13 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon the representations received in respect of a proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage fare tariff advertised in accordance with the decision of this Committee on 18 July 2018.

Members were advised that the last increase of hackney carriage fares was in February 2017 when the initial hiring distance on tariff 1 (standard day rate) was reduced. All other tariffs and distances remained unchanged. Further to a proposal to increase the hackney carriage fare tariff on 18 July 2018, Members resolved that the proposal be approved subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

The Licensing Manager reported that the proposed increase had been advertised for a period of fourteen days and a newsletter had been sent to every hackney carriage and private hire driver, vehicle and operator licence holder informing them of the proposal.

Members were advised that during the consultation period, two representations had been received supporting the proposal, two objecting and one expressing general concerns. A table comparing the current and proposed rates was attached to the report together with the representations received.

Mr D Cummins, Unite the Union addressed the Committee and requested that the proposal be accepted by Members in its entirety as there had been no increase in seven years and no waiting time increase since 2002.

On a motion by Councillor R Abbey and seconded by Councillor A Hodson, it was -

Resolved – That the proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage fare tariff be approved and the new table of fares be in force as from 1 November 2018.

14 **INDEPENDENT SURVEY OF THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES IN WIRRAL**

The Corporate Director for Business Management sought Members' views in respect of undertaking a consultation exercise further to two options that had been set out in the final recommendations of the report produced by CTS Traffic and Transportation Ltd on their Independent Survey of the Supply and Demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles.

The Licensing Manager outlined the report and advised that on 23 January 2012 this Committee imposed a limit of 289 on the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences issued following the recommendations of an independent survey to ascertain the demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles at that time subsequent to a period of 10 years of the Council operating a Policy of no limit.

Members were informed that an independent survey of the supply and demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles in Wirral had been undertaken during 2017 by CTS Traffic and Transportation Ltd and the findings of the survey were reported to a meeting of this Committee on 1 February 2018 where the conclusions and recommendations were noted and it was resolved that Members have regard to the report when determining any future policies in respect of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicle licences. The report acknowledged that there were licences available as there were currently 258 vehicles licensed and went on to say that 'this means current plate values are low or non-existent as anyone wanting a plate could have one.'

The report stated that neither keeping nor removing the limit appears to provide any impact on the current issues identified by the review and that there was no significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles. The report presented two options within its final recommendations:

- The Committee is able to continue with the policy of limiting hackney carriage vehicle numbers if it wishes and this could be defended if necessary.
- The Committee could also remove the limit policy in order to allow further future development of the fleet when required.

It was therefore proposed that a consultation exercise be undertaken with the public and relevant stakeholders in respect of the two options presented.

Derek Cummins, Unite the Union, addressed the Committee. He referred to the survey that had been undertaken and believed that it would not be necessary to undertake a further consultation exercise.

On a motion by Councillor I Lewis and seconded by Councillor R Abbey, it was -

Resolved –

- (1) That due to the fact that the Independent Survey of the Supply and Demand for Hackney Carriage Vehicles had incorporated a consultation exercise, no further consultation exercise was necessary to be undertaken in respect of the two options set out in the final recommendations of the report produced by CTS Traffic and Transportation Ltd.**
- (2) That the current policy limiting the number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences to 289 continue to remain in place.**

15 DRAFT SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE POLICY AND STANDARD CONDITIONS

The Corporate Director for Business Management sought Members' approval of the draft Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy. Members were also asked to approve standard conditions to be placed on all Sexual Entertainment Venue Licences.

The Licensing Manager outlined the report and Members were advised that on 24 May 2018 this Committee approved a draft Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy which then went out for consultation. The consultation closed on 6 July 2018 and comments had been received from Merseyside Police who requested to be consulted in respect of specific applications and from an applicant who currently had an application pending for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence which the comments related directly to.

The draft Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and draft Standard Conditions were attached to the report. Members were advised that each application would be considered on its own merits and it was a matter for this Committee whether to delegate any applications to the Licensing Panel.

On a motion by Councillor R Abbey and seconded by Councillor D Mitchell it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That the draft Sexual Entertainment Venue Policy and Standard Conditions be approved.**
- (2) That all applications for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence be referred to the Licensing Panel for determination.**

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LICENSING PANEL

Wednesday, 29 August 2018

Present: Councillors RL Abbey D Burgess-Joyce
C Meaden D Mitchell

32 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Resolved - That;

- 1 In the absence of the Chair that Councillor R Abbey be appointed Chair for the item of Any Other Urgent Business only.
- 2 Councillor David Burgess-Joyce be appointed Chair for this meeting.

33 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.

34 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS - APPLICATION FOR STREET COLLECTION PERMITS

(Councillor Ron Abbey in the Chair).

The Corporate Director for Business Management presented two applications for Street Collection Permits for consideration.

As one of the applications was for a street collection on a day other than a Saturday, and one of the applications was for a day other than a Saturday and for two days in the same calendar year, the applications could not be determined under delegated powers.

It was reported that an application for a Street Collection Permit had been received from JF on behalf of the HF Trust Ltd for Sunday 2 September 2018. The proposed collection was to be held during a sponsored walk along the Wirral from Leasowe Lighthouse to New Brighton Tower Grounds. It was proposed that there would be a maximum of 8 people involved in the collection which would be made using security-sealed and numbered buckets. A copy of the application was made available to members.

A separate application had also been received from DM on behalf of NW Air Ambulance for Friday 7 September 2018 and Saturday 8 September 2018. The proposed collections were to be held at New Brighton Dips during the New Brighton Promenade Stages Rally. It was proposed that there would be a maximum of 20

people involved in the collection. A copy of the application was made available to members.

Members considered the applications made by the applicants and it was:

Resolved – That the applications for Street Collection Permits be approved in respect of both applications.

Councillor Ron Abbey left the meeting following consideration of this item.

35 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - 4 VEHICLES**

(Councillor David Burgess-Joyce in the Chair).

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon four separate applications to licence four Iveco Daily vehicles, Registration Numbers LT52 PYD, LT52 PYG, LT52 PXY and LT52 PXZ as private hire vehicles. It was reported that should the vehicles be licensed they would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Corporate Director for Strategy and Partnerships to transport children to and from educational establishments.

The owner of the vehicles Mr M W, trading as MW Transport, had a number of contracts issued by the Corporate Director for Strategy and Partnerships to transport children to and from educational establishments.

In preparation for the new school year in September Mr Williams had purchased four vehicles prior to 18 July 2018. These vehicles were all over ten years old.

Mr M W had applied to license the four vehicles and was requesting Members consider granting licences outside the current Policy as the vehicles were purchased before 18 July 2018.

The Licensing Panel had considered these applications at their meeting on 10 August 2018 (Minute 27 refers). At this meeting, Members had resolved that vehicle registration number LT52 PXY must undertake the repairs shown as advisories on the MOT pass certificate and then undergo a further MOT test. In addition Members had resolved that all four vehicles must undergo a further compliance test which would be observed by a Licensing Enforcement Officer.

The vehicles had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and results of the tests were reported to Members at the meeting.

The owner of the vehicles was present at the meeting with his vehicles which members of the Panel inspected. No further documents were provided by the owner.

Resolved – That the vehicles must undergo further compliance testing and that should the vehicles fail to address any cosmetic body work the licences may be granted but only subject to a Notice being issued in respect of such work being addressed to the satisfaction of a Licensing Enforcement Officer.

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - 2 VEHICLES

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application to licence two separate vehicles – a Mercedes Sprinter 413, registration number WX04 YAH and a Mercedes Sprinter 413, registration number WV52 NVR as private hire vehicles. It was reported that should the vehicles be licensed they would be used to undertake work exclusively under and in strict accordance with the terms and conditions of a contract issued by the Corporate Director for Strategy and Partnerships to transport children to and from educational establishments.

The contracts that had been awarded to the applicant required that the vehicles used to transport children were fitted with a tail lift. In preparation for the new school year in September 2018 the company had applied to license two vehicles with tail lifts which they had owned for four years and which had previously been licensed as public service vehicles (PSV). Seats had been removed from the vehicles to reduce the capacity from sixteen to eight passengers and the V5s (log books) had been changed with the DVLA. As these vehicles were no longer adapted to carry more than eight passengers they were not subject to the Public Service Vehicles to undertake work for hire and reward. The vehicles were both over ten years old.

The applicant had requested that Members consider granting licences outside the current Policy as the vehicles had been purchased before 18 July 2018.

The vehicles had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and results of the tests were available to Members at the meeting.

The applicant was present at the meeting with the vehicles which members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved - That the vehicles must undergo further compliance testing and that should the vehicles fail to address any cosmetic body work the licences may be granted but only subject to a Notice being issued in respect of such work being addressed to the satisfaction of a Licensing Enforcement Officer.

37 APPLICATION TO APPROVE A PEUGEOT E7 AS A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received to licence a Peugeot E7, registration number SF12 JZG as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle. An application had been received from Mr D R to license a Peugeot E7 which had been converted to undertake work as a Hackney Carriage Vehicle, however this work had not been undertaken by Allied Vehicles (Cab Direct).

It was reported that the vehicle had been reconverted by Car n Cab Care and the company had advised that the vehicle was now compliant to Cab Direct and M1 standards. A letter from Car n Cab Care was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

The owner of the vehicle was present at the meeting with his vehicle which members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That Licensing Officers be delegated to grant the application to licence the Peugeot E7, registration number SF12 JZG as a Hackney Carriage

Vehicle when an Individual Vehicle Approval test certificate has been issued in respect of the vehicle to the satisfaction of Licensing Officers.

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LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 14 September 2018

Present:

Councillors C Meaden
D Burgess-Joyce
D Mitchell

38 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair it was –

Resolved – That Councillor D Burgess-Joyce be appointed Chair for this meeting.

39 **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.

40 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE APPLICATION - FORD MONDEO, REGISTRATION NUMBER SJ08 UJX**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received to re-licence a Ford Mondeo, registration number SJ08 UJX, beyond the normal over-age date for a licensed private hire vehicle. The vehicle had previously been licensed from 23 December 2009 until 22 December 2015 and was licensed again from 21 April 2017. The current licence was due to expire on 8 September 2018 but had been extended to the date of this meeting. The vehicle had been examined at one of the Council's authorised testing stations and the pass certificate was available for Members.

The owner of the vehicle was present at the meeting with his vehicle which members of the Panel inspected.

Resolved – That the application to re-licence the Ford Mondeo, registration number SJ08 UJX be granted for a further six months.

41 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE - FORD TOURNEO, REGISTRATION NUMBER NE11 LOV**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received to exempt a Ford Tourneo, registration number NE11 LOV from displaying Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates and to exempt the driver of the vehicle from wearing his Private Hire Driver Badge.

The owner of the vehicle was present at the meeting. He advised Members that he had made the application due to the type of work he undertakes which was corporate contracts.

Resolved -

- (1) That the proprietor of the vehicle be issued with a notice providing an exemption from the requirement to display Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates on the vehicle and to exempt the driver of the vehicle from the requirement to wear a Private Hire Driver Badge.
- (2) That the vehicle may only be used in circumstances where confirmation of the booking is made to the customer which includes the following:
 - bookings must be made 24 hours in advance;
 - the applicant text/email his customers including a picture of the driver of the vehicle together with details of the name of the driver, badge number and registration number of the vehicle.
- (3) That the vehicle may only undertake work through an invoicing system.

42 **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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

43 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (TB)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr TB should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr TB attended the meeting and made representations.

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

Resolved -

- (1) That Mr TB be allowed to continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.
- (2) That Mr TB successfully complete a Driver Awareness Course by 14 October 2018.
- (3) That Mr TB be issued with a written warning as to his future conduct.

44 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (JGR)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr JGR should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr JGR attended the meeting and made representations.

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

Resolved -

- (1) That Mr JGR be allowed to continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.**
- (2) That Mr JGR successfully complete a Driver Awareness Course by 14 October 2018.**
- (3) That Mr JGR be issued with a written warning as to his future conduct.**

45 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCE (GMCC)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr GMcC should continue to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. Mr GMcC did not attend the meeting.

Resolved - That Mr GMcC be instructed to attend the next meeting of the Licensing Panel and be advised that the matter may be considered in his absence should he fail to attend.

46 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (RDS)**

The Corporate Director for Business reported upon an application received by Mr RDS for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr RDS attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr RDS.

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

Resolved - That Mr RDS's application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

47 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (DAT)**

The Corporate Director for Business reported upon an application received by Mr DAT for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr DAT attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr DAT.

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

Resolved - That Mr DAT's application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

48 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (MR)**

The Corporate Director for Business reported upon an application received by Mr MR for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr MR attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr MR.

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

Resolved - That Mr MR's application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

49 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE - APPLICATION (MMM)**

The Corporate Director for Business reported upon an application received by Mr MMM for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr MMM attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr MMM.

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

Resolved - That Mr MMM's application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

50 **PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCES - CEE**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr CEE should continue to hold a Private Hire and a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. Mr CEE attended the meeting and made representations.

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

Resolved - That Mr CEE be allowed to continue to hold a Private Hire and a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence.

51 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (BVV)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr BVV should continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr BVV attended the meeting together with his wife and made representations.

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

Resolved - That Mr BVV be allowed to continue to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

52 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE - APPLICATION (MIB)**

The Corporate Director for Business reported upon an application received by Mr MIB for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr MIB attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr MIB.

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

Resolved (2:1 Councillor D Burgess-Joyce dissenting) - That Mr MIB's application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved for a period of 12 months.

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LICENSING PANEL

Wednesday, 3 October 2018

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)
Councillors RL Abbey D Burgess-Joyce
C Meaden

52 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.

53 PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCE - APPLICATION (CT)

This item was withdrawn, at the request of the applicant.

54 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - 1. APPLICATION FOR A STREET COLLECTION PERMIT

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported that an application had been made for a Street Collection Permit on behalf of the Mayor of Wirral's Charity for Friday, 5 October 2018. The proposed collection was to take place during the Giants event in New Brighton. A copy of the application was available.

As the request for a permit for a street collection was on a day other than a Saturday, the application could not be determined under delegated powers.

RESOLVED:

That the application for a Street Collection Permit in respect of the Mayor of Wirral's Charity be granted.

55 ANY OTHER BUSINESS - 2. APPLICATION FOR A STREET COLLECTION PERMIT

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported that an application had been made for a Street Collection Permit on behalf of Claire House for Friday, 5 October 2018. The proposed collection was to take place during the Giants event in New Brighton. A copy of the application was available.

As the request for a permit for a street collection was on a day other than Saturday, the application could not be determined under delegated powers.

RESOLVED:

That the application for a Street Collection Permit in respect of Claire House be granted.

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LICENSING PANEL

Friday, 12 October 2018

Present: Councillors D Burgess-Joyce
C Meaden
A Hodson

56 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

Resolved – That;

In the absence of the Chair, Councillor A Hodson be appointed Chair for this meeting.

57 **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.

58 **APPLICATION TO LICENSE A FIAT 500 AS A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received to license a Fiat 500 as a Private Hire Vehicle.

The applicant was unable to attend the meeting.

Resolved – That the applicant be instructed to attend a future meeting of the Licensing Panel should he wish to pursue his application.

59 **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE - MERCEDES E CLASS, REGISTRATION NUMBER LS68 PZX**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received to licence a Mercedes E Class, registration number LS68 PZX, 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 applicant also requested that the vehicle be exempt from displaying Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates and to exempt the driver from wearing a Private Hire Driver Badge.

The owner of the vehicle was present at the meeting with the vehicle which Members of the Panel inspected.

Members considered the representations made by the applicant.

Resolved –

(1) That the applicant be permitted to license a Mercedes E Class, registration number LS68 PZX, 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.

- (2) That the proprietor of the vehicle be issued with a notice providing an exemption from the requirement to display Private Hire Vehicle Licence plates on the vehicle and to exempt the driver of the vehicle from the requirement to wear a Private Hire Driver Badge when driving the vehicle.
- (3) That the vehicle may only be used in circumstances where confirmation of the booking is made to the customer which includes the following:
 - bookings must be made 24 hours in advance;
 - the applicant text/e-mail his customers including a picture of the driver of the vehicle together with details of the name of the driver, badge number and registration number of the vehicle.
- (4) That the vehicle may only undertake work that is paid for through an invoicing system.

60 **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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

61 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (JAW)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received by Mr JAW for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr JAW attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr JAW.

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

Resolved – That Mr JAW’s application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

62 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (BSB)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received by Mr BSB for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr BSB attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the report submitted.

Members considered the representations made by Mr BSB regarding the nature of his convictions as well as other material information relevant to his application. Members had regard to their Policy and on this occasion were not persuaded to act outside their Policy.

In determining the matter Members also 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 felt that in seeking to ensure the legitimate aim of the protection of the public, the decision made to refuse the application was justified in the circumstances.

Resolved – That Mr BSB’s application for a Private Hire Driver Licence be refused.

63 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (DFR)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received by Mr DFR for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr DFR attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr DFR.

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

Resolved – That Mr DFR’s application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

64 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCE (GMCC)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr GMcC should continue to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence. Mr GMcC attended the meeting and made representations.

Members gave due consideration to Mr GMcC’s representations and exercised their right to consider each case on its individual merits in light of the representations made.

Resolved -

(1) That Mr GMcC be allowed to continue to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver Licence.

(2) That Mr GMcC be issued with a written warning as to his future conduct.

65 **PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (AA)**

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application received by Mr AA for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence. Mr AA attended the meeting and made representations in respect of his application.

Members considered the representations made by Mr AA.

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

Resolved – That Mr AA’s application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be approved.

LICENSING PANEL

Wednesday, 24 October 2018

Present: Councillor P Stuart (Chair)

Councillors D Burgess-Joyce
A Hodson
C Meaden
D Mitchell

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 APPLICATION FOR A SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE LICENCE

The Corporate Director for Business Management reported upon an application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982. The application related to the premises known as the Townhouse, 9 Union Street, Tranmere. Members were also asked to determine appropriate conditions to be placed upon the licence should the application be granted.

A "sexual entertainment venue" is defined as any premises at which relevant entertainment is provided before a live audience for the financial gain of the organiser or the entertainer.

"Relevant entertainment" means –

- (a) any live performance
- (b) any live display of nudity.

The Townhouse currently holds a Premises Licence, issued under the Licensing Act 2003, which permits the sale of alcohol, regulated entertainment and late night refreshment.

An application for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence had been submitted in respect of the premises. The hours proposed for relevant entertainment were as follows:

Monday	10:30 to 15:30
Tuesday	19:00 to 00:30
Wednesday and Thursday	19:30 to 01:30
Friday and Saturday	20:30 to 03:00

Sunday

14:00 to 00:00

Members held a site visit prior to the commencement of the meeting. A copy of the application and plans showing the proposed location for relevant entertainment had been made available.

Consultation had been undertaken in respect of the application. The applicant had advertised details of the application on the premises and in a local newspaper. No representations had been submitted in respect of the application.

The applicant was questioned about the nature of the business and the safety of members using the premises. The applicant was also questioned about the manner in which data records were to be maintained and how the business was managed.

Members questioned the applicant on the measures taken to protect members of the club when they were using the various rooms within the premises, including measures relating to health and safety. Details were provided, which included a vetted membership scheme, a through induction process for new members and staff monitoring in respect of the adherence to membership rules.

The applicant was questioned about their intended opening hours. The applicant stated that they chose not to be open every day. The applicant was also questioned about their drinks policies. They stated that drinks were allowed to be brought into the premises on Saturday evenings only. They had to be placed in lockers and were served by staff in accordance with the membership rules. Only cold, soft drinks could be taken upstairs. Only polycarbonate glass was used.

The applicant was asked about their policies on alcohol and drugs. They stated that bags were searched upon entry and UV lights were used, to detect drugs. The applicant was also asked about the availability of personal alarms. They stated that personal alarms were available, if requested. However, the applicant stated that to date, they had not been used.

The applicant was also questioned in relation to whether there had been any incidents on the site which had required medical attendance. Members were informed that there had been one previous incident, at which an ambulance had attended.

Members considered the applicant's responses and deliberated at length regarding the conditions which should be placed upon the premises licence.

RESOLVED:

That the application by the Townhouse for a Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence be granted, with the following conditions:

- (a) The premises must operate a Membership Scheme, whereby no person must be admitted onto the premises unless they are a Member, except during events when customers must be fully clothed.**

- (b) The Membership Policy implemented at the premises must include a checking / vetting procedure which is undertaken by the Licence Holder before individuals are accepted as members.**
- (c) Members attending the premises for the first time must be provided with an induction to the premises which includes an explanation of the rules of conduct to be adhered to by all members.**
- (d) Rules of conduct for Members must be published on the premises website and made available on the premises,**
- (e) Access to the premises must be vetted initially through an intercom system.**
- (f) A Challenge 25 Policy must be operated at the premises whereby any person suspected of being under the age of 25 years must be required to produce identification proving they are over the age of 18 years before being admitted to the premises. The only acceptable forms of identification must include the person's photograph, date of birth and either a holographic mark or an ultraviolet mark.**
- (g) All staff must be able to access all rooms at all times. This includes times when doors are locked from the inside.**
- (h) Alcohol brought onto the premises by members must be handed to a member of staff on the bar and be served in accordance with a policy of not allowing the consumption of alcohol by persons who are drunk.**
- (i) Alcohol must be decanted into plastic containers or polycarbonate vessels if Members take their drinks onto the first floor or second floor.**
- (j) A member of staff must undertake inspections of each room to ensure cleanliness, ensure condoms are replenished and to ensure that Members are behaving in accordance with the Rules. These inspections must be recorded and made available to the Licensing Authority or the Police upon request.**
- (k) Personal alarms must be made available to Members.**
- (l) There must be at least one member of staff on duty at all times who is trained in First Aid. The Licence Holder must ensure that an adequate and appropriate supply of First Aid equipment and materials are available on the premises.**
- (m) An incident / accident log must be maintained at the premises, and made available for inspection upon request by the Licensing Authority or the Police.**
- (n) The premises must implement a zero tolerance drugs policy.**

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Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee

Wednesday, 23 January 2018

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL AWARD 2018
REPORT OF:	Director of Governance and Assurance

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to request agreement from the Committee that the Wirral Award be conferred on the nominees as recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee:

- (1) agree to confer the Wirral Award upon those recipients recommended by the Wirral Award Working Party; and**
- (2) make appropriate arrangements for the presentation ceremony to take place as set out in paragraph 3.0 of this report.**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Wirral Award is intended to confer civic recognition upon individuals or organisations resident or located in Wirral for an outstanding achievement within the previous twelve months, or for distinguished service to the Borough over a period of twenty years or more.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 None.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Nominations sought

Eight nominations were received and considered by the Wirral Award Working Party.

3.2 Wirral Award Working Party

The Wirral Award Working Party, comprising the Mayor and representatives of the political groups met on 13 December, 2018 to consider the nominations submitted. Their recommendations have been circulated to Committee Members for consideration.

3.3 Presentation Ceremony

Once nominations are agreed a presentation ceremony will be arranged to be attended by:

- (i) The Mayor of Wirral
- (ii) Leader of the Council
- (iii) Group Leaders
- (iv) Chair of Licensing, Health and Safety, and General Purposes Committee
- (v) Chief Executive
- (vi) Nominees and one guest each

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs of the presentation ceremony would be accommodated within existing approved budgets.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising directly out of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no such implications arising out of this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Nominations are sought and accepted from all areas of the local community.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Wirral Award nominations are open to all residents or organisations resident or located in Wirral.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Anne Beauchamp*
Committee Officer
telephone: (0151 691 8608)
email: annebeauchamp@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2015	27 January 2016
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2016	25 January 2017
Licensing, Health & Safety and General Purposes Committee – Wirral Award 2017	1 February 2018

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Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee Wednesday, 23 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	PETITION: POLLING STATION FOR HOLMLANDS ESTATE OXTON
REPORT OF:	Director of Governance and Assurance and Monitoring Officer

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides details of a Petition, signed by 100 people who live in the Borough, as well as supporting information for reference requesting the Committee to review the provision and distribution of Polling Stations within the Oxtan Ward.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee agrees to the recommendations as set out in Appendix 3.

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1.The Authority can take the action requested in the petition.

1.2.The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a polling place accessible to all Electors in each of its polling districts.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 A petition containing the names of 100 people who live in the Borough is considered an 'Ordinary petition (that just ask for action to be taken). The procedure for dealing with a petition provides that the Authority can take the action requested in the petition.

3.2 The Council 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There would be a hire cost for using Bethany Chapel as a polling place but it has yet to be determined and is subject to it being designated as a polling place.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications have been set out within the main body of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 The resource implications have been set out within this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Wirral Council welcomes petitions and recognises that they are a way in which people can report their concerns about issues affecting the region

7.2 The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure a polling place exists in each of its polling districts.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Ward Councillors have been consulted

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None as the review included use of the Electoral Commissions Evaluation Checklist which addresses equality and diversity issues relevant to Polling Districts, Places and Stations.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Kate Robinson*
Electoral Services Manager
telephone: (0151) 691 8511
email: katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: **Petition: Polling Station for Holmlands Estate, Oxton**

Appendix 2: **Supporting Information**

Appendix 3: **Report and Recommendations on the Petition and supporting information**

Appendix 4: **Comments from Councillors**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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APPENDIX 1

106 Holmlands Drive
Oxton
Wirral
Merseyside CH43 0UA
Telephone : 07482 050863
Email : oxtonlabourparty@gmail.com

Licensing and General Purposes Committee
Wallasey Town Hall
Brighton Street
Wallasey
Wirral CH44 8ED

4th January 2019

For the attention of Bryn Griffiths / Anne Beauchamp, Committee Officers

PETITION : Polling Station for Holmlands Estate, Oxton

We are pleased to enclose a petition signed by the required 100 electors, to request the Committee to review the provision and distribution of Polling Stations in the Oxton Ward. A page with additional supporting information is included for your reference.

Please could this matter be considered at the next meeting of your Committee scheduled for 23rd January.

Yours sincerely



Paul Doughty
Labour Councillor for Oxton



Jeff Davies
Prospective Candidate - 2019

Attachments :

1. Petition (6 pages) ✓
2. Supporting Information ✓

PETITION Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

20

We the undersigned note that :

- boundaries for the DB Polling District include over 35% of the electorate of Oxton Ward
- the location of the Polling Station at St Saviours school does not reflect the geographical distribution of the electorate, which is weighted towards the Holmlands Estate

We request the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to :

- Review the location of Polling Stations in Oxton Ward relative to the number of electors
- Provide an alternative or additional Polling Station to serve the electorate of the Holmlands Estate.

Name	Address	Post Code	Signature
K NEWTON	7 HARESTONE CLOSE	CH43 2NJ	K Newton
J DAVIES	106 HOLMLANDS DRIVE	CH43 0UA	J Davies
Jayne Davies (Mrs)	106 Holmlands Drive	CH43 0UA	Jayne Davies
LIAM ELLIS	106 HOLMLANDS DRIVE	CH43 0UA	Liam Ellis
J. S. King	1 Maple Close	CH43 0XQ	J. S. King
B.S. KERR	3. MARPLE CLOSE	CH43 0XQ	B.S. Kerr
UJ Keegan	3 Marple Close	CH43 0XQ	UJ Keegan
JOHN WICKHAM	1 PRESTBURY CLOSE	CH43	John Wickham
G Williams	8 Prestbury Close	CH43	G Williams
K Denton	117 11 AVENUE	CH43 0ND	K Denton
K Baird	72 PRESTBURY	CH43 0UU	K Baird
J Gimes	66 PRESTBURY	CH43 0UW	J Gimes
M. Patel	60 PRESTBURY	CH43 0UW	M Patel
J Pendleton	58 Prestbury 1	CH43 0UG	J Pendleton
C Barnett	50 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	C Barnett
G Barnett	" " "	" " "	G Barnett
A. MURST	65 Holmlands Drive	CH43 0JZ	A. Murst
D Broad	46 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	D Broad
R. FALKER	69 prestbury ave	CH43 0UG	R. Falker
M. FALKER	69 prestbury ave	CH43 0UG	M. Falker

Petition organised and presented by Jeff Davies 106 Holmlands Drive Oxton CH43 0UA
on behalf of the Oxton Labour Party.

20

Page 1 of 6 pages

PETITION Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

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Name	Address	Post Code	Signature
D MCCABE	36, PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
J CARNS	22 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
M PRITCHARD	20 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
T McCaffrey	14 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
D.J. [Signature]	11 Ledbury Close	CH43 0UT	<i>[Signature]</i>
N. Sales	4 Prestbury	CH43 0UF	<i>[Signature]</i>
W.D. Edwards	1 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UE	<i>[Signature]</i>
W. Owen	9 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
MARTIN [Signature]	15 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
[Signature]	19 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
A. Eirley	29 Prestbury Ave	"	<i>[Signature]</i>
G. Binmore	33 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
J. [Signature]	43 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
J. [Signature]	43 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
E. [Signature]	45 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
G. [Signature]	51 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
NOEMAN WARRHOAST	61 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
BARBARA CLARKE	73 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
AMANDA DICKIN	87 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	<i>[Signature]</i>
Lucy Allen	115 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UN	<i>[Signature]</i>

Petition organised and presented by Jeff Davies 106 Holmlands Drive Oxton CH43 0UA
on behalf of the Oxton Labour Party,

PETITION Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

We the undersigned note that :

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We request the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to :

- Review the location of Polling Stations in Oxton Ward relative to the number of electors
- Provide an alternative or additional Polling Station to serve the electorate of the Holmlands Estate.

Name	Address	Post Code	Signature
L. NEWTON	7, HARGRAVE CLOSE	CH43 2HJ	
M. HOUGHTON	78. PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0AU	
E. HASLAM	123 "	"	
E. ERIKSEN	73 HOLMLANDS DR	CH43 0TZ	
D. EVANS	7 PRESTBURY CLOSE		
M. CARDWELL	3 Prestbury clov	CH43 0UB	
D. CARDWELL	3 PRESTBURY CL	CH43 0UB	
J. KERRIN	24 Aillsbury	CH43 0UB	
K. MOGENSEN	52 PRESTBURY AV	CH43 0UG	
¹⁰ R. FOGG	34 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	
A. JONES	26 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	A. F. Jones
V. JONES	35 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UC	
R. JONES	35 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UG	
A. SNELDA	16 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UG	
P. ROBINSON	2 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UF	
J. BARNER	11 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UF	
E. SUTTON	63 LAVERTON AVE	CH43 0XB	
C. CROFT	823 PRESTBURY AV	CH43 0UP	
M. JACKSON	31 PRESTBURY	CH43 0UU	
²⁰ P. MARTIN	39 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	

Petition organised and presented by **Jeff Davies 106 Holmlands Drive Oxton CH43 0UA**
on behalf of the Oxton Labour Party,

PETITION Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

We the undersigned note that :

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We request the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to :

- Review the location of Polling Stations in Oxton Ward relative to the number of electors
- Provide an alternative or additional Polling Station to serve the electorate of the Holmlands Estate.

Name	Address	Post Code	Signature
M. CHALKER KIRKMAN	125 PRESTON AVE	CH43 0UN	<i>[Signature]</i>
P D BEARD	127 PRESTON AVE	CH43 0UN	<i>[Signature]</i>
M.M. UFFON.	21 WERVIN RD	CH43 0U2	M.M.U.
C. Myles	" "	" "	C.M.
D. CHAMBERLAIN	15 WERVIN ROAD	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
Young	13 WERVIN ROAD	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
C. COMBER	13 WERVIN ROAD	CH43 0U2	C. COMBER
S. COMBER	13 WERVIN ROAD	CH43 0U2	S. COMBER
DIANE KERSHAW	2 WERVIN CL	CH43 0XA	D. Kershaw
GILIAN KERSHAW	2 WERVIN CL	CH43 0XA	G. Kershaw
JOHN KERSHAW	2 WERVIN CL	CH43 0XA	<i>[Signature]</i>
Antoinette Crepanan	4 WERVIN CL	CH43 0XA	<i>[Signature]</i>
Emily Keelan	" "	" "	Emily Keelan
Peter Crepanan	" "	" "	<i>[Signature]</i>
Helen Robini	Flat 1, 2 Brevard Rd	CH43 1XG	<i>[Signature]</i>
Robert Robini	" "	" "	Rob
Joel Robini	" "	" "	Joel
Sue CURFE	2 CHARLESVILLE	CH43 1TP	<i>[Signature]</i>
BARBARA HARRISON	25 Devonshire Place	CH43 1TX	B. Harrison
Pre Skelton	7, Chelwood Cl.	CH43 9JL	<i>[Signature]</i>

Petition organised and presented by Jeff Davies 106 Holmlands Drive Oxton CH43 0UA
on behalf of the Oxton Labour Party,

PETITION Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

We the undersigned note that :

- boundaries for the DB Polling District include over 35% of the electorate of Oxton Ward
- the location of the Polling Station at St Saviours school does not reflect the geographical distribution of the electorate, which is weighted towards the Holmlands Estate

We request the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to :

- Review the location of Polling Stations in Oxton Ward relative to the number of electors
- Provide an alternative or additional Polling Station to serve the electorate of the Holmlands Estate.

Name	Address	Post Code	Signature
Christine Mathew	39 Prestbury Ave	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
B BORNIC	53 Prestbury	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
J Borwick	53 Prestbury	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
B Kitchen	63 Prestbury	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
A Gillin	65 Prestbury	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
D DAVIES	67 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
B WRIGHT	79 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
P EATON	95 PRESTBURY AVE	CH43 0UQ	<i>[Signature]</i>
H Johnson	111, PRESTBURY	CH43 0UN	<i>[Signature]</i>
¹⁰ Scott Felli	27 WERVIN	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
CHRIS BOLT	25 WERVIN Rd.	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
TRACEY BOLT	" "	" "	<i>[Signature]</i>
TOM BOLT	" "	" "	<i>[Signature]</i>
JO HOLLAND	17 WERVIN Rd.	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
SW PICKLES	11 WERVIN RD	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
R HANSON	7 WERVIN RD.	CH43 0U2	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jimmy Sergi	15 Talbot Rd	CH43 2HJ	<i>[Signature]</i>
Tom Phipps	15 Tamboer Gardens	CH43 2JA	<i>[Signature]</i>
Jennie Macdon	15 Normansdon Rd	CH43 5SB	<i>[Signature]</i>
²⁰ Amanda Morgan	5 Caroline Place	CH43 1TR	<i>[Signature]</i>

Petition organised and presented by Jeff Davies 106 Holmlands Drive Oxton CH43 0UA
on behalf of the Oxton Labour Party,

150

Page 5 of 6 pages

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PETITION - Supporting Information

Polling Station for the Holmlands Estate, Oxton

In considering the attached Petition we ask the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to consider the following supporting information.

The boundaries for the DB Polling District include over 35% of the electorate of Oxton Ward.

Reference to the Electoral Register shows the electorate in Oxton Polling districts are distributed as follows :

Polling District	DA (McAllester)	DB (St Saviours)	DC (St Josephs)	DD (Christchurch)
Electorate	1633	3820	2748	2616
%	15.10%	35.30%	25.40%	24.20%

This clearly demonstrates the inequality in the split between the DA and DB districts, with a grossly disproportionate number of electors directed to St Saviour's School. This creates an unnecessary workload for Officers, and congestion outside the premises and on the adjacent road.

The location of the Polling Station at St Saviours school does not reflect the geographical distribution of the electorate

Reference to a map of the Polling District shows :

- St Saviours School is located at the extreme boundary of the District served, surrounded on three sides by open spaces and playing fields;
- Adjacent houses at The Knoll and flats at Ingestre Court (which overlook the Polling Station) are included in the DC district;
- The distribution of housing in the DB District is heavily weighted towards the Holmlands Estate, with properties included that are over a mile from the Polling Station.

The location of this Polling Station is a disincentive to a substantial majority of the electorate who still prefer to cast their votes in person on the day of the election.

The distance and uphill slope from the Holmlands are obstacles for the elderly or infirm, and for those with parental responsibilities who are required to remain at home to care for young children. This latter group increases on election days if schools are closed for use as Polling Stations.

It is appreciated that the cost of providing and staffing an additional Polling Station to serve the Holmlands Estate may be an considered unreasonable expense.

It is therefore proposed that :

1. **An alternative Polling Station** is identified for the DB District in a location appropriate to the distribution of housing. Possible venues include Townfield Lane Primary School and Bethany Chapel. To avoid closing the school, the preferred option is the Bethany Chapel on Holmlands Drive, adjacent to shops and car parking.
2. **A revised boundary** be established for an equitable split between the DA and DB districts, moving properties between Shavington Avenue and Talbot Road (approx 870 voters) to the DA district. This transfer would result in DA and DB Districts having approximately 23% and 27% of the Oxton Ward electorate respectively.

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PETITION: Polling Station for Holmlands Estate, Oxton and Supporting Information REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Petition asks the Licensing and General Purposes Committee to review the position and distribution of Polling Stations in the Oxton Ward and includes supporting information for reference when considering the petition.

The supporting information focuses on two areas:

- 1) The boundaries for the DB Polling District include over 35% of the electorate of Oxton Ward.
- 2) The location of the Polling Station at St Saviours school does not reflect the geographical distribution of the electorate.

1) The boundaries for the DB Polling District include over 35% of the electorate of Oxton Ward.

The table below demonstrates the current distribution of the electorate for Oxton Ward across the four polling districts.

Polling District	DA (McAllester)	DB (St Saviours)	DC (St Josephs)	DD (Christchurch)
Electorate	1633	3820	2748	2616
%	15.10%	35.30%	25.40%	24.20%

The petition states that this clearly demonstrates an inequality between polling districts DA and DB and considers a grossly disproportionate number of electors are directed to the polling place for DB [Oxton St Saviour's C or E Primary School]. The petition also states that this creates an unnecessary workload for Officers and congestion outside the premises and on the adjacent road.

The petition has proposed that the polling district boundary between DA and DB be revised by moving properties between Shavington Avenue and Talbot Road (approximately 870 voters) into polling district DA resulting in a more even electorate respectively.

Whilst Electoral Services agrees that the electorate for polling district DB is disproportionate to the other three polling districts, in particularly polling district DA, local authorities have a statutory responsibility for reviewing all polling districts and polling places every five years and the last compulsory review was undertaken in 2013. The next one is scheduled for this year commencing directly after the elections in May and will include a review of the boundary between polling districts DA and DB.

2) The location of the Polling Station at St Saviours school does not reflect the geographical distribution of the electorate

The petition states that the distribution of housing in polling district DB is heavily weighted towards the Holmlands Estate, with properties included that are over a mile from the designated polling place. The petition proposes an alternative polling place/station be identified in a location appropriate to the distribution of housing. Possible venues include Townfield Lane Primary School, [Townfield Lane] and Bethany Chapel Evangelical Church [Holmlands Drive].

St Saviours C of E Primary School, [Holm Lane] is the current designated polling place/station for polling district DB. It is an established polling place with two polling stations and is situated at the top of Holm Lane on the boundary with polling district DC. At the local elections in 2018, 26% of the electorate voted at the polling place and 48% of those voters resided in the Holmlands Estate area. There have been no complaints received by Electoral Services about the location of the polling place or problems due to congestion outside or in adjacent roads. Likewise in respect to the workload of Officers, again, there have been no complaints from any staff employed for election polling duties. This includes during 2016 and 2017 when there were two very high profile polls. Other than costs for heating and lighting, the Returning Officer is entitled to use, free of charge, any school that is deemed suitable for the purpose of being a polling place.

An inspection of the possible alternative venues has been undertaken by Electoral Services with the following findings:

- Townfield Lane Primary School, [Townfield Lane]

The school is located at the opposite extreme boundary to that of the location of the current polling place with the entrance being situated on a sharp double bend. Access by car into the school grounds is via a barrier that is controlled by the reception office and there is sufficient parking within the school car park albeit on different levels and some voters may be required to climb a steep incline.

Level access into the school is from the top car park and the room to be used as the polling station would be the school hall which is accessed from the reception office. There is no other suitable room that could be used as the polling station, therefore, the school would have to close on polling day. There would be a cost for heating and lighting only as the Returning Officer is entitled to use schools free of charge.

The school can be accessed by voters living in the surrounding Holmlands Drive area but only via a footpath, however, this could result in voters parking their cars in adjacent roads causing possible congestion and complaints from residents.

- Bethany Chapel Evangelical Church [Holmlands Drive]

The Chapel is located within the Holmlands estate and is situated on a sharp bend. There is a small car park available, full disabled access, a foyer area to accommodate tellers and good facilities for both staff and voters. Although there is other parking outside a row of shops, this would only benefit voters if they are empty throughout the day. There is potential for congestion occurring throughout polling day both immediately outside the premises and in adjacent roads which could result in complaints from residents.

Access into the building is level and the room to be used as the polling station would be the small hall situated at the back of the premises. There is a small slope into the hall, however, the church representative stated there had never been any problems with access for wheelchair users.

There would be a hire charge but this has not yet been determined. Hire costs can vary from between £250 to £700.

When designating polling places, ideally, there would be the choice of a range of fully accessible buildings, conveniently located for electors in the relevant area. Unfortunately, in practice, the choice of polling places is often very limited. The two proposals are located at the opposite end of the polling district and do not present a better voting experience for the

whole polling district, indeed both have the potential to cause more traffic congestion than the current polling place.

Ward Councillors have been consulted. Councillors Stuart Kelly and Alan Brame have raised some concerns regarding these proposals which are attached.

Recommendations:

- 1) That the petition be considered
- 2) That the boundary between polling district DA and DB be reviewed as part of the statutory Polling District and Polling Place Review being undertaken after the May 2019 elections.
- 3) That the status quo remain in relation to the designated polling place for polling district DB which is Oxtan St Saviours C of E Primary School [Holm Lane].

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Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)

From: Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 10:58
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)
Cc: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Subject: RE: Change in polling place for polling district DB

I have considered the issues here and have some concern about the suitability of the two suggested alternatives in terms of the capacity of the nearby road network to safely cope with the parking associated with voters traveling a distance to visit the polling station or voting whilst enroute to or from work. Benthany is on an awkward bend and parking around the bend could result in issues for the bus servicing the estate, the same is the case at townfield were the early morning parking can be a issue on the main road and in side streets. St saviours at least has the benefit of a longer stretch of straight road down holm lane and a lay by further up.

I can under stand people wanting a polling place closer to home. But a move from one end of DB to the other would introduce similar inconvenience to a different part of the polling district for no apparent gain.

I have looked at turn out figures for DB and compared them with other polling places in Oxton and Birkenhead and I am unable to identify an issue with participation because of the location of the polling station turn out is often (as a percent) higher than other station in Oxton and certainly compares well with the rest of Birkenhead. I conclude that st saviours is not in itself a barrier to voters turning out to visit the station to vote.

In terms of distance I think it probable that townfield would result in longer journeys for people living in Woodchurch Road .

DB is a large polling district and in an ideal world it may be considered that splitting it into two smaller districts would be desirable, having said that there would be a cost implication that would need to be justified based on st saviours proving to be unsuitable which is not something that is apparent from the evidence.

Finally changing a well known polling station for a different one has the potential to cause confusion for people who are used to it. I know that the change would be advertised and appear on the polling card however most people in DB if asked would identify st saviours as the place they have always voted.

Prior to this petition which I understand has been raised by a political party I have never received any complaints about sts saviours use as a polling station from a constituent

These are my thoughts on the issue and I hope you are able to take them in to account when you make your decision

Stuart Kelly

Liberal Democrat Councillor - Oxton Ward

Phone - 0794 054 5003
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 Blog: <http://cllrskelly.wordpress.com/>
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 Web: <https://wirralibdems.com/category/oxton/>

From: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services) <katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 January 2019 12:10
To: Doughty, Paul A. (Councillor) <pauldoughty@wirral.gov.uk>; Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)

<stuartkelly@wirral.gov.uk>; Brame, Allan J.(Councillor) <allanbrame@wirral.gov.uk>

Subject: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Importance: High

Dear Councillor

A petition has been submitted to the Council requesting an alternative polling place be identified for polling district DB.

The current polling place is Oxton St Saviours C of E Primary School which is situated at the top of Holm Lane. The petition has identified two possible alternative venues, 1) Townfield Lane Primary School, and 2) Bethany Chapel, Holmlands Drive.

I have visited both of these premises and will report on my findings shortly but in the meantime I would appreciate your views on this matter.

Time is of the essence I'm afraid so any comments would be appreciated by noon tomorrow (Wednesday 9 January).

Thank you

Kind regards

Kate Robinson
Electoral Services Manager
Governance and Assurance
Business Management
Wirral Council
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Brighton Street
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Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)

From: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:44
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services)
Cc: Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor)
Subject: FW: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Dear Kate

I sent my previous response prematurely! Here are some more residents' comments:

I personally don't see any problems continuing with St Saviors school. Townfield School also has congestion issues.

**I think Bethany chapel would be good & you wouldn't have to close the schools
All three have parking problems**

Ridiculous!

The parking for Bethany Chapel and Townfield School would be horrendous. The school causes problems with parking at the best of times.

I do not see any benefits to change of Poll Station venue whatsoever.

I don't see any issues with staying with St Saviours School, we have been using the school for voting purposes and don't quite understand why there are people who want to move or change where they vote, do t try and fix something that isn't broken.

TOWNFIELD SCHOOL is a definite NO-NO... parking there is atrocious, and it's right on a bend! This is a ridiculous idea in my opinion. BETHANY CHAPEL is fine for me, as I live nearby, but once again, PARKING IS NOT SO GOOD. My question is, why does it need to move from St. Saviour's School anyway? People have been voting there for years, and I've not heard of any complaints?

My instinct would be to leave things as they are – any benefits for some would be balnced or outweighed by disadvantages for others. The current location does not seem to inhibit turnout.

Kind regards

Allan Brame

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Oxton
Mobile: 07905 487797

From: Brame, Allan J.(Councillor)
Sent: 09 January 2019 11:27
To: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services) <katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Change in polling place for polling district DB

Dear Kate

Thank you for alerting me to this proposal.

DB is a particularly large polling district and wherever a polling station is located, some voters will be inconvenienced. I think the issue is whether either of the two proposed alternatives offer significant benefits compared to St Saviour's School.

I have email contacts for 120 residents in DB and contacted them yesterday afternoon to ask for their response to the suggestion. Just over a quarter have responded, representing all parts of the polling district. A few favoured Bethany; a few Townfield; some were either indifferent, but the majority could not see any benefit in moving the polling station, mainly expressing concern about parking issues. These are a few of the comments:

Parking is already a problem on Holmlands Drive with shops and doctors surgery taking up all existing parking places. Town field school is on a bend on abusy road. Voters would cause hazards by parking inappropriately. On balance I feel St Saviours is the best option but if we have to have one nearer the estate I would suggest the Bethany Chapel is marginally better than Townfield School

Kind regards

Allan Brame

Liberal Democrat Councillor for Oxtou
Mobile: 07905 487797

From: Robinson, Kate E. (Electoral Services) <katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk>
Sent: 08 January 2019 12:10
To: Doughty, Paul A. (Councillor) <pauldoughty@wirral.gov.uk>; Kelly, Stuart E. (Councillor) <stuartkelly@wirral.gov.uk>; Brame, Allan J.(Councillor) <allanbrame@wirral.gov.uk>
Subject: Change in polling place for polling district DB
Importance: High

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I have visited both of these premises and will report on my findings shortly but in the meantime I would appreciate your views on this matter.

Time is of the essence I'm afraid so any comments would be appreciated by noon tomorrow (Wednesday 9 January).

Thank you

Kind regards

Kate Robinson



**Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee
Wednesday, 23 January 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE
REPORT OF:	Director of Governance and Assurance and Monitoring Officer

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides details of a change in relation to a polling place within Polling District ND in the Hoylake and Meols ward of the Borough and seeks approval of a suitable alternative.

The relevant change is in the Recommendation set out in Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee agrees to the recommendation set out in Appendix 1.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1. The Council has a statutory duty to ensure there is a polling place accessible to all Electors in each of its polling districts.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Council 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The hire cost for using West Kirby Methodist Church as a polling place has not yet been determined but will be approximately £325 as previously charged.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications have been set out within the main body of this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 The resource implications have been set out within this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Council is under a statutory duty to ensure a polling place exists in each of its polling districts.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Ward councillors have been consulted

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None as the review included use of the Electoral Commissions Evaluation Checklist which addresses equality and diversity issues relevant to Polling Districts, Places and Stations.

REPORT AUTHOR: Kate Robinson
Electoral Services Manager
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email: katerobinson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Change of Polling Place for Polling District ND (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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CHANGE OF POLLING PLACE FOR POLLING DISTRICT ND**1. Hoylake and Meols Ward**

Polling District ND:-

The current polling place is Westbourne Community Centre [Westbourne Road].

Electoral Services has received communication from the Manager that the Centre is not available for use at the forthcoming elections in May 2019 due to a block booking opportunity.

Investigations for an alternative venue have been carried out by Electoral Services and a proposal has been identified.

The proposed alternative venue is West Kirby Methodist Church Hall [Westbourne Road]. It has been used before for the elections in 2015 and offers reasonable facilities for voting and would be accessible to all electors. The vicar of West Kirby Methodist Church has indicated that the church hall is available.

There would be a hire cost which is yet to be determined but will be approximately £325 as previously charged.

Recommendation:

That West Kirby Methodist Church Hall [Westbourne Road] be designated as the polling place for polling district ND for the forthcoming elections in May 2019 and that Westbourne Community Centre be re-designated as the polling place for polling district ND in the future.

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