

# Cheltenham Borough Council Full Licensing Committee

**Meeting date:** 4 March 2026

**Meeting time:** 5.00 pm

**Meeting venue:** Council Chamber - Municipal Offices

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## **Membership:**

Councillor Dr David Willingham, Councillor Angie Boyes (Vice-Chair), Councillor Dilys Barrell, Councillor Steve Harvey, Councillor Tabi Joy, Councillor Dr Helen Pemberton, Councillor Julie Sankey, Councillor Dr Steve Steinhardt, Councillor Simon Wheeler (Chair) and Councillor Barbara Clark

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## **Important notice – filming, recording and broadcasting of Council meetings**

This meeting will be recorded by the council for live broadcast online at [www.cheltenham.gov.uk](http://www.cheltenham.gov.uk) and <https://www.youtube.com/@cheltenhambc/streams>. The Chair will confirm this at the start of the meeting.

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If you have any questions on the issue of filming/recording of meetings, please contact Democratic Services.

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## **Speaking at Licensing Committee**

To find out more about Licensing Committee or to register to speak, please click [here](#) or contact Democratic Services.

**Please note:** the deadline to register to speak is 5.00pm on the day before the meeting.

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**Contact:** [democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@cheltenham.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01242 264 130

# Agenda

## **1 Apologies**

## **2 Declarations of interest**

## **3 Public questions**

These must be received no later than 12 noon on the fifth working day before the date of the meeting

## **4 Minutes of the previous meeting (Pages 5 - 30)**

To approve the minutes of the last Full Licensing Committees held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025 and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

The Alcohol and Gambling Committee held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025

The Licensing Miscellaneous Committee held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

## **5 Local Government Act 1972**

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 2, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 1; Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2; Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

## **6 Review of a hackney carriage driver's licence (Pages 31 - 44)**

## **7 Review of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence (Pages 45 - 88)**

## **8 Any other items the Chairman determines urgent and requires a decision**

## **9 Date of next meeting**

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# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Full Licensing Committee

### Minutes

**Meeting date:** 3 December 2025

**Meeting time:** 5.00 pm - 9.25 pm

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**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Councillor Dr David Willingham, Councillor Dilys Barrell, Councillor Steve Harvey, Councillor Tabi Joy, Councillor Dr Helen Pemberton, Councillor Dr Steve Steinhardt, Councillor Simon Wheeler (Chair) and Councillor Barbara Clark

**Also in attendance:**

Vikki Fennell (Senior Lawyer, One Legal), Jacob Doleman (Licensing Officer) and Craig Daly

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#### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sankey and Boyes.

Councillor Willingham left the meeting after agenda item 4 due to a Mayoral engagement.

#### **2 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

#### **3 Minutes of sub-committee meetings**

Meeting of the previous sub-committee meetings were approved.

#### **4 Renewal of the Sexual Entertainment Venue Licence**

The Senior Licensing Officer introduced the report as published.

The responses to Member questions were as follows:

## Page 6

- The application is practically the same as the application that the committee approved last year.
- The Chief Officer for Police that is referred to in the report is actually the Chief Constable.

The democratic services officer read out representation from 2 objectors, the points they made were as follows:

- The frequency exemption means that the Council feels that it has no choice but to grant the licence.
- The committee should avoid watering down the conditions. The conditions are based on the Council's own 2020 Community Impact Statement.
- The Council is aware that females in particular feel disadvantaged by the Sexual Entertainment and the licensing of SEV's.
- It is concerning that the applicant has again requested a variation to conditions, which would mean that they can hand out flyers for the bus and use a marked vehicle to transport customers.
- Although Dream Boys events are advertised freely and it could be perceived that Eroticats are being treated differently, however there is an epidemic of male violence against women and girls not an epidemic of violence against men and boys.
- Strip clubs normalise the objectification and dehumanisation of women and girls and the Council was right to issue a policy that limits the way that these clubs are advertised.
- Some might say that there is far worse available on line, this is true but should not be used as an argument to allow strip clubs to be advertised freely.
- A request was made for the Council to continue to lobby the Home Office to remove the exemption.
- Many women avoid the town during race week due to routine harassment from drunk men.
- Turning pubs into strip clubs only reinforces objectifying women. The SEV's make the atmosphere really unpleasant and unsafe for women.
- GlosWomen have written to the Minister for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls to request that the SEV frequency exemption be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Three supporters' statements were then read, they made the following points:

- She has worked for the applicant for over a decade, starting as a performer and now as a house mother.
- She stated that she stays with the organisation as it is the only one that provides security.
- The courtesy bus plays a vital part in getting the performers home safely.
- It is a well-run, safe legal business, performers return year after year to work for them, which is an indication of how happy they are with the organisation.

## Page 7

- She has worked at places before under the exemption and they are nowhere near as well organised and the performers are not as well looked after.
- Regulated sexual entertainment provides a greater protection for all concerned in either working at or attending Cheltenham Festivals.
- The police know the venue and the operator and work well together as they are aware that it is a safe experience for all.
- Unregulated sexual entertainment provides no protection for anybody.
- It is challenging to comprehend why anyone would consider a no rules lap dancing club to be a safer option than a licensed one.
- It is important to remind individuals that this form of entertainment is lawful, even if people disagree on moral grounds.
- Cheltenham retains the Purple Flag which shows its commitment to ensuring the safety of residents and visitors.
- Clubs that choose to diversify into this legitimate form of entertainment respond to supply and demand.

The applicant was then asked to address the committee and made the following points:

- There are no issues raised in relation to layout or character.
- With regard to the locality the premises is just outside the permitted area, it is recognised that the area is mixed use and the licence has previously been granted.
- The venue operates discreetly and within specific hours and for a limited number of days a year.
- There has been no representations from the police.
- Failure to grant the licence has a negative impact on welfare and safety, it is a lawful activity and it is better to have a licensed venue that is subject to robust policies and procedures.
- There is no difference to last year's application and it was granted last year.

The Chair suggested that the matter was debated in public to which the committee agreed.

During the debate Members made the following points:

- There was support for the SEV and would welcome more to come under the remit of the Council.
- Appreciative of the applicant working with the Council to get the best outcome.
- As the application was approved last year it would be irrational to do anything other than approve the application as there is no material difference.
- The previous Chair stated that he had visited the premises previously and those premises operating under the exemption and spoken to the performers and they are much happier operating with a licenced premises.
- Morality is not the job of the committee, safety is and granting a licence ensures safety.

- The current government are not interested in a change in the legislation, therefore the best way forward is to licence a premises.
- The police have not raised an objection, and it is the responsible authority in relation to crime and disorder, so there seems to be no reason not to grant the licence.
- It was felt to be unfortunate that none of the objectors or supporters were present to address the committee.
- The committee has been told many times that performers feel safer working in a licensed operation than under the exemption.
- Thousands of people visit Cheltenham during the races and do not know that the SEV's operate.
- Unfortunately people feel unsafe in Cheltenham during race week, is that because of the amount of people and the high levels of alcohol that are consumed rather than the operation of the SEV?

The matter then went to the vote to grant the application:

For: 7

Abstentions: 1

GRANTED

### **5 Local Government Act 1972**

The committee then voted unanimously on the following:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 2, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 1; Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2; Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

### **6 Review of Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence**

After the Senior Licensing Officer gave his report as published, the driver answered questions from the committee and was given the opportunity to address them.

The committee adjourned to make their decision and it was agreed that the driver should attend the relevant course to be advised of by the licensing team.

## **7 Review of a Private Hire Drivers Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report. The Members and the driver had the opportunity to ask the Licensing Officer questions. The driver then addressed the committee and responded to their questions.

The committee adjourned to make their decision and it was decided that the driver would receive a written warning.

## **8 Seating Capacity of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle**

Prior to the Licensing Officer introducing the report, Members left the Chamber and looked at the vehicle and tried sitting 3 people in the back of the vehicle as this was the matter that was under consideration.

The Licensing Officer then introduced the report and responded to questions from both Members and the driver.

The driver was then given the opportunity to address the committee and answer their questions.

The committee adjourned for them to make their decision.

The decision was unanimous to refuse to increase the capacity of the vehicle.

## **9 Application to Renew a Private Hire Drivers Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report as published and responded to Member questions.

The applicant was then given the opportunity to address the committee and answer Member questions.

The committee adjourned to make their decision. The committee unanimously decided to refuse to renew the licence.

## **10 Review of previous decisions**

There were none.

## **11 Any other items the Chairman determines urgent and requires a decision**

There were none,

## **12 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Full Licensing Committee will be 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Full Licensing Committee

### Minutes

**Meeting date:** 3 September 2025

**Meeting time:** Time Not Specified - Time Not Specified

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**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Councillor Dr David Willingham, Councillor Dilys Barrell, Councillor Steve Harvey, Councillor Dr Helen Pemberton, Councillor Julie Sankey, Councillor Dr Steve Steinhardt, Councillor Simon Wheeler (Chair) and Councillor Barbara Clark

**Also in attendance:**

Michelle Bignell (Licensing and Public Protection Manager)

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#### **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Boyes and Joy.

#### **2 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

#### **3 Public questions**

There were none.

#### **4 Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

#### **5 Minutes of sub-committee meetings**

The minutes of the sub-committees alcohol and gambling and miscellaneous were all approved.

The minutes from the alcohol and gambling committee held on the 27<sup>th</sup> May were queried, they were confirmed as a correct record. The concern that was raised was due to the McDonalds legal representative stating that the property would not be a franchise, several days after the committee it was announced that the property would be a franchise. Concern was raised that McDonalds had not been entirely truthful with the committee and Members wanted this minuted.

The Licensing and Public Protection manager stated that the committee could have further discussion after the meeting.

### **6 Statement of Licensing Policy**

The Public Protection and Licensing Manager introduced the policy and asked for Member comments which were as follows:

- One of the Members confirmed that he is a personal licence holder and welcomed the update.
- It was raised that it doesn't appear to be compulsory to show "Ask for Angela" or "Ask for Clive" signs in a premises, it was explained that is not mandatory to participate in advertising these schemes, there is a piece of work that is taking place for better promotion of the scheme. There is also work in progress with regard to a charter for the night time economy.
- The comment was made that as well as looking at safety for women we should also be look after young men as well as women.
- It was raised that in regard to 3.3.3 late night refreshment licences should also be included. Having a requirement on new licences that staff are annually trained in safe guarding and that the DPS regularly maintains these records. This would seem a good idea to have as a model condition on these types of premises.

### **7 Street Scenes Activities Policy**

The Licensing and Public Protection Manager introduced the draft policy. Members were asked for their comments, which were as follows:

- There was an incorrect spelling that was pointed out.
- There was the use of the word highways throughout the report, which people might think is just the road – but also includes the pavements. It was suggested that there was an explanation that the expression highway in this case includes the roads.
- There was praise for the authority as the policy goes beyond the statutory requirements.

It was confirmed that there is a standard condition (5a) that addresses the issue of the obligation to remove street furniture if instructed to do so by police on the grounds of risk of disorder.

### **8 Briefing note**

**9 Any other items the Chairman determines urgent and requires a decision**

There were none.

**10 Date of next meeting**

The next full committee will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.

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# Cheltenham Borough Council

## Full Licensing Committee

### Minutes

**Meeting date:** 3 December 2025

**Meeting time:** 5.00 pm - 9.25 pm

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The responses to Member questions were as follows:

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The democratic services officer read out representation from 2 objectors, the points they made were as follows:

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- Many women avoid the town during race week due to routine harassment from drunk men.
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The Chair suggested that the matter was debated in public to which the committee agreed.

During the debate Members made the following points:

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- The previous Chair stated that he had visited the premises previously and those premises operating under the exemption and spoken to the performers and they are much happier operating with a licenced premises.
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The matter then went to the vote to grant the application:

For: 7

Abstentions: 1

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The committee adjourned to make their decision and it was agreed that the driver should attend the relevant course to be advised of by the licensing team.

## **7 Review of a Private Hire Drivers Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report. The Members and the driver had the opportunity to ask the Licensing Officer questions. The driver then addressed the committee and responded to their questions.

The committee adjourned to make their decision and it was decided that the driver would receive a written warning.

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The Licensing Officer then introduced the report and responded to questions from both Members and the driver.

The driver was then given the opportunity to address the committee and answer their questions.

The committee adjourned for them to make their decision.

The decision was unanimous to refuse to increase the capacity of the vehicle.

## **9 Application to Renew a Private Hire Drivers Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report as published and responded to Member questions.

The applicant was then given the opportunity to address the committee and answer Member questions.

The committee adjourned to make their decision. The committee unanimously decided to refuse to renew the licence.

## **10 Review of previous decisions**

There were none.

## **11 Any other items the Chairman determines urgent and requires a decision**

There were none,

## **12 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Full Licensing Committee will be 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



# Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing Sub Committee-Alcohol and Gambling Minutes

**Meeting date:** 9 December 2025

**Meeting time:** 6.00 pm – 6.55pm

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**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Dilys Barrell, Dr Helen Pemberton and Simon Wheeler

**Also in attendance:**

Vikki Fennell (Senior Lawyer, One Legal) and Jacob Doleman (Licensing Officer)

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## **1 Election of Chair**

Councillor Wheeler was elected as chair prior to the meeting.

## **2 Declarations of interest**

There were none.

## **3 Determination of a New Application for a Premises Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report as published.

The matter then went to Member questions, the responses were as follows:

- There has been no response from the responsible authorities.
- There is a CBC Public Space Protection Order which includes Imperial Gardens and The Promenade it is the method of control that the police have to prevent drinking in public spaces.

- Although some of the objectors mentioned that other premises don't have such long hours, the other Tesco Express stores have the same hours and there are other premises in the area that have similar hours.

The Applicant had no questions for the officer.

The Applicant addressed the committee and made the following points:

- Tesco intend to open the store in February 2026.
- It is a well-known brand with five stores already in the Cheltenham area, one that is the superstore format – on Tewkesbury Road and 4 express stores.
- The store will carry a limited range to cater for the area.
- Tesco don't sell white ciders or higher strength products in the express stores – the type of alcohol they sell is geared to what the demand is in the area.
- Licensing solicitor for Tesco deals with the problems in the local stores and hasn't been to the Cheltenham committee for some years.
- When the store is looking for staff there will be a QR code at the front of the store for preferential treatment during recruitment of people who live in the area.
- When the store opens there will be a mix of new staff and experienced staff.
- Tesco take pride in being a good neighbour, and will be happy to join any schemes – they are part of the radio link with the existing stores, this means that they are notified of any potential trouble occurring in the other stores.
- Tesco have raised over £120k to fund 63 projects across the town.
- Tesco enjoy a good relationship with the statutory authorities.
- The applicant supports a community alcohol project that they work with closely to give young people diversionary activities and steer them away from alcohol.
- They offer British Institute of Innkeepers training and they have been praised for the training that they offer, the training is renewed every 6 months.
- Security training is also carried out, they operate a challenge 25 policy and will only accept home office approved ID.
- Their policy is not to serve alcohol to someone who is drunk and will support cashiers with any problems.
- If there is a group of young people attempting to buy alcohol all in the group will be asked for ID.
- As an employer they empower and encourage colleagues to make the right decision and they are encouraged to do so.
- Security in the store is linked to a hub where operators watch the CCTV and they will then send any details to the police to deal with.
- Spirits that are for sale are kept behind the checkouts, teams wear headsets and body cams.
- The door has the facility to see who is coming into the store to let people in first thing in the morning and last thing at night, the doors will not be permanently open.
- Managers are empowered to shut the stores if there is a need to.

- Tesco has an in-house licensing team to look after the stores if they have any queries on licensing.
- The stores are regularly tested On Think 25.
- The stores carefully pick the range to what is required locally.
- Advertised promotions may not be in the smaller stores.
- Tesco operate nationally set pricing.
- The application for late night refreshment is for a costa coffee machine, if money is going through a checkout then a licence is required.
- There have been no other issues with the other Tesco stores in Cheltenham.
- If the hours that they have applied for don't work then there will be a change in hours.
- There seems to be a fear of the store causing a noise issue, the store will be on a busy high street, alcohol won't be served to people who cause anti-social behaviour.
- There have been no objections from the police and the committee should draw the appropriate weight from that, they would have suggested conditions if they wanted them.
- There has been a problem with rough sleepers at the other branches and Tesco have worked with the council to move people on.
- There will be litter bins that they will be responsible for emptying, there is no problem with the one in town so no reason to think that there would be here.
- Waste is removed from the site when the deliveries are made.
- The hours they are applying for would look to be the licensed hours, they want to offer the whole offering all the time with no limitation on alcohol.

The matter then went to Member questions, the responses were as follows:

- The applicant confirmed that a late night refreshment licence is needed for the hours that they are asking so that the sales from the coffee machine can go through the till.
- Between 11pm and midnight customers will be able to buy anything that they want with the coffee.
- There is a separate regime that will cover objects on the highway, the installation of litter bins will need to be covered by officers and Tesco. Officers confirmed that they are happy to take that up with the applicant.
- With regard to the licensing hours the policy allows the sale of alcohol from 9-11 Members need to have good reason to deviate, it seems churlish to refuse when pubs and clubs are in the area.
- The licensing hours will match the trading hours. Shift workers buy alcohol when they finish work, it's their evening not their morning. The store is not an off licence, the majority of goods that they sell are not alcohol, a very small amount of their sales are alcohol.

The applicant was then given the final right of reply as follows:

They had given quite a thorough brief and hoped that they had demonstrated they are a trust worthy operator and that they have demonstrated the practices they have in place.

Officers and the applicant left the Chamber to enable the committee and the legal officer to make their decision. When the applicant returned the Legal Officer read the decision as follows:

### **DECISION**

At the hearing the Sub-Committee heard from a representative for the Applicant and the Licensing Officer.

The committee was convened as a result of two objections being received by the local authority from other persons.

No representations were received from any of the Responsible Authorities.

All relevant written submissions have been considered.

### **Legal Matters**

The Sub-Committee had due regard to:-

1. The provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 which confer the powers of the Licensing Authority to deal with the application.
2. The obligation to promote the four licensing objectives.
3. The relevant sections of the Council's Statement of Licensing Policy and Statutory Guidance.

The Licensing Sub-Committee considered that it must carry out its functions with a view to promoting the four licensing objectives, as set out in Section 4(2) of the 2003 Act.

### **Decision of the committee**

To grant the licence as applied for.

The sub-committee can see no reason not to grant the licence.

- Tesco is a huge business with other similar stores in the town where there has been no evidence that any of the other stores have been associated with any anti-social behaviour and there is no evidence to show that this store will be any different.
- Furthermore neither of the responsible authorities namely the constabulary who are the specialist in relation to crime and disorder nor Environmental health who specialise in noise and public nuisance have objected to the application.
- Furthermore the committee are reminded that there is a public space protection order within the area so any issues of drinking in the street can be dealt with speedily.

- The sub-committee were happy with the litter proposals put forward by the applicant and are confident that Tesco have sufficient policies to cover most eventualities.

### **Appeal**

All parties are reminded that there are rights of appeal against this the Licensing Authority's decision pursuant to Section 181 of and Schedule 5 to the Licensing Act 2003. An appeal must be made to the Magistrates' Court and commenced within 21 days of notification of the Authority's decision.

All parties are also reminded that should there be any issues once the store is open there is a right of review

### **4 Any other items the Chairman determines to be urgent and which requires a decision**

There were none.

Meeting concluded at 18.55.

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# **Cheltenham Borough Council Licensing Sub-Committee - Miscellaneous Minutes**

**Meeting date:** 4 February 2026

**Meeting time:** 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm

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**In attendance:**

**Councillors:**

Dr Helen Pemberton, Julie Sankey, Dr David Willingham and Dilys Barrell

**Also in attendance:**

Michelle Bignell (Licensing and Public Protection Manager), Vikki Fennell (Senior Lawyer, One Legal) and Craig Daly (Licensing Officer)

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## **1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Wheeler and Boyes. Councillor Barrell attended as a substitute.

Councillor Willingham was voted Chair of the committee with the absence of both the Chair and Vice Chair.

## **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

## **3 Review of a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence**

The committee voted unanimously on the following:

That in accordance with Section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining agenda items as it is likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, if

members of the public are present there will be disclosed to them exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 and 2, Part (1) Schedule (12A) Local Government Act 1972, namely:

Paragraph 1; Information relating to any individual

Paragraph 2; Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

The meeting entered exempt session.

The Senior Licensing Officer introduced the report as published.

Members asked the Licensing Officer questions and the driver had the chance to address the committee and answer any questions. He was also given the final right to reply.

The committee then retired to make their decision, the decision was delivered to the driver as follows:

The committee noted that the driver had accepted that what he had done was wrong but had not apologised. The committee noted that he had no previous record at all of breaching any rules since becoming a driver.

The committee unanimously decided that the driver be issued with a written warning. The committee stated that should he be called back to the committee anytime within the next 12 months, the consequences are likely to be more severe. The warning will remain on his record. He was advised of his rights to appeal.

#### **4 Application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence**

The senior licensing officer introduced the report as published.

Members and the applicant both asked questions of the licensing officer. The applicant addressed the committee and answered their questions. The applicant was also given the final right of reply.

The committee then retired to make their decision, the decision was delivered to the driver as follows:

The committee deemed that the driver was fit and proper to hold a licence but it would be marked on his record that this incident had occurred should he come before the committee again this would be taken into account.

#### **5 Review of a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence**

The Licensing Officer introduced the report as published, there were no Member or driver questions for the officer.

The driver addressed the committee and answered any Member questions, he was also given the final right of reply.

The driver and officers left the Chamber for the Members to debate the matter and make their decision.

The driver returned to the meeting and the decision was given as follows:  
The committee unanimously voted to give a written warning to the driver, they explained that if there are any further incidents, damage, collision or criminal conduct he needs to contact the Council immediately. Any further issues will be taken to the committee and that the committee will be informed of this written warning.

## **6 BRIEFING NOTES**

The Licensing and Public Protection Manager introduced the briefing notes as published.

There were no questions on the first and second consultations.

There were Member questions on the third consultation with regard to Local Transport Authorities and the licensing of taxis and private hire vehicles. The responses were as follows:

- If the public are interested in the consultation then there are links on the Licensing pages of the website.
- If there are suggestions of improvements to be made then Members of the committee can do this under their capacity as local councillors.
- The Chair thanked the team for their work on the Purple Flag.

## **7 Any Other Items the Chairman Determines Urgent and Which Requires a Decision**

There were none.

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