

Waste & Street Scene Policy Committee

Meeting held 28 September 2022

PRESENT: Councillors Joe Otten (Chair), Mike Chaplin (Deputy Chair), Alexi Dimond (Group Spokesperson), Tim Huggan, Mark Jones, Janet Ridler, Paul Turpin, Cliff Woodcraft and David Barker (Substitute Member)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Nabeela Mowlana.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

2.1 **RESOLVED:** That the public and press be excluded from the meeting before discussion takes place on part 2 of agenda item 10 (item 9 of the minutes) on the grounds that, if the public and press were present during the transaction of such business, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as described in paragraphs 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3.1 There were no formal declarations of interest made at the meeting

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22nd June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

Matters Arising

Noted that answers to question from Bridget Ingle to be published on the website.

5. WORK PROGRAMME

5.1 The Chair introduced the item. Some discussion took place about additional items to be added to the Work Programme.

5.1 RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:

1. That the Committee's work programme, as set out in Appendix 1 be agreed, including any additions and amendments identified in Part 1;
2. That consideration be given to the further additions or

adjustments to the work programme presented at Part 2 of Appendix 1; and

3. That Members give consideration to any further issues to be explored by officers for inclusion in Part 2 of Appendix 1 of the next work programme report, for potential addition to the work programme.

With the addition of these items to be included in the Work Programme:

1. Amey Contract Performance – Amey to be asked to present on the performance of the contract – 21 December 2022
2. Moor Markets – Uptake of Stalls – TBD which meeting
3. Savings – consider reports in year on budget savings for Waste and Street Scene portfolio – TBD which meeting/s
4. Parking Enforcement – 15 February 2023
5. Veolia Contract Performance – TBD which meeting

6. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS

5.1 The Chair noted 34 submissions from licensed taxi drivers objecting to Section G, point 10-a in the proposed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver Policy, with regard working on Multiple Platforms simultaneously, the submissions are asking for this section to be immediately amended so that it allows a driver to be able to have both systems switched on at the same time, (as they are the essential tools of our trade, and furthermore it's much safer and practical).

5.2 Ibrar Hussain attended the Committee and presented the following petition:

5.2.1 "More Additional INDEPENDENT Approved TEST CENTRES in Sheffield for Taxi/PHV" <https://chnq.it/HtJCKLqj>

Response: The Chair apologised for previous attempts at the petition and advised that this is no longer the case and that the issue of test centres will now be considered after the vehicle policy.

5.3 Ibrar Hussain attended the Committee and asked the following questions:

- 5.3.1
 1. Why is it taking so long to process renewal of taxi badges when we have an online process, this matter needs an urgent review and new full process put in place to address this issue?
 2. Implementation of the new proposed policy of hackney carriage and private hire drivers policy is proposed for 1st November 2022, can the officers confirm are all staff and resources in place to implement this policy, and refresher courses who will carry them out for Existing licensees inhouse or sourced out, and will they be free of charge?
 3. When will the licensing service open to public at Staniforth Road Depot Sheffield to serve taxi driver's, a timeline will be

welcomed?

4. IT in licensing service- when will the licensing service get this sorted and drivers portal if any what progress, we need timeline and forward plan on this?
5. Licensing Service does not publish to taxi trade enforcement actions and information and its costs to evaluate what We the licensee pay for annually through our fees, I want to know this information?
6. How many staff members are in the licensing service and dealing alone with taxi section and is the service at full capacity or what is the current situation?
7. Has Sheffield City Council supported financially licensing service in 2021/2022, if yes by how much?
8. How many hackney carriage vehicle licences are in safe keeping currently?
9. Future taxi policies - please outline and timeline for policy committee agenda including fees review?

Answer: The Chair responded that a written answer will be provided to the questions.

- 5.4 James Martin attended the Committee and asked a question regarding the concern over the timeframe for undertaking Disability Awareness training. The committee were reminded of the written representation made last time which highlighted how 3 years was far too long a lead time for providing such training. Mr Gosney requested that Sheffield City make it easier for disabled people to use the taxi service.

Answer: The Chair responded that the time allowed for training and multiple operators will be discussed in the upcoming item.

- 5.5 Paul Gosney attended the Committee representing City Taxis and asked that Section G, Point 10-a stands as proposed with drivers working for one platform at a time stating that it is safer and gives better service delivery.

Answer: The Chair responded that the time allowed for training and multiple operators will be discussed in the upcoming item.

- 5.6 Nasar Raoof, Secretary of GMB attended the Committee and raised two issues:

1. In regard working on multiple platforms and the proposed Section G, Point 10-a he commented that there are other ways to deal with customer complaints on service levels, that the licensing authority/Council has no right to restrict self-employed individuals of their rights by making them operate on single platform;
2. In regard the convictions policy on these proposals are wrong, members will find the statutory guidance is disproportionate, not diligent enough and discriminatory.

Answer: The Chair responded that multiple operators will be discussed

in the upcoming item.

- 5.7 Mohammed Yassin attended the Committee and stated that there is lack of consultation with taxi trade from licensing, taking 4 days to renew a licence. He also stated that restrictions should not be put on drivers for working for multiple operators, nor prohibition of licence periods.

Answer: The Chair responded that multiple operators will be discussed in the upcoming item.

7. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER POLICY

- 7.1 The Licensing Strategy and Policy Officer presented the report which sought approval of the revised Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence Policy. First published in 2016, the policy provides information and guidance on:

- applications
- decision-making
- enforcement

In providing a publicly available document, it allows:

- transparency
- accountability
- consistency

- 7.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee:-

1. Approve the revised Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Drivers Licence Policy as set out in appendix H of the report, with the exception of the following amendments:
 - a. Condition 10a – The licensee is permitted to undertake bookings from only one private hire operator at any one time – use of multiple booking systems used simultaneously is not permitted – is removed.
 - b. Condition 10b is re-numbered Condition 10a.
 - c. Condition 10c – The licensee must display signage of the Private Hire Operator for which they undertake bookings – is renumbered Condition 10b and is amended to say “The licensee must display signage as approved by the Licensing Service.” With the Private Hire Operator and Vehicle Licence Policy providing further information on requirements.
 - d. The requirement to undertake disability awareness training to be

within 2 years from the time accredited organisations have been appointed.

With the policy to come into force on 1st November 2022.

7.3 **Reasons for Decision**

7.3.1 The Department for Transport recommends that licensing authorities make publicly available a cohesive policy document and to review this document every five years.

7.3.2 The licensing authority already has in place a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence Policy document which has now been reviewed to take into account the recommendations in the Department for Transport Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards.

7.3.3 The document is designed to:

- Provide individuals with a clear, consistent basis for submitting applications
- Provide a clear, consistent basis for determining licence applications
- Provide licensees with information on licensing requirements throughout the time they are licensed

7.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

7.4.1 There are no alternative options under consideration

8. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - MONTH 4**

8.1 The Director of Finance and Commercial Services presented the report which brought the Committee up to date with the Council's financial position as at Month 4 2022/23.

8.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee:-

1. Note the Council's challenging financial position as at the end of July 2022 (month 4).

8.3 **Reasons for Decision**

8.3.1 By the law the Council must set and deliver a balanced budget, which is a financial plan based on sound assumptions which shows how income will equal spend over the short- and medium-term. This can take into account deliverable cost savings and/or local income growth strategies as well as useable reserves.

8.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

8.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.

9. **BUDGET PROPOSALS 23/24**

- 10.1 The Director of Street Scene and Regulation presented the report which set out the budget pressures and risks facing the services that are the responsibility of the Waste & Street Scene (WSS) Policy Committee and a budget action plan to mitigate these as far as possible in the 23/24 financial year. It provided recommendations for approval which would allow the services to contribute to Sheffield City Council's ability to set a balanced budget.

(The meeting moved into closed session to discuss the appendix which contained exempt information under Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended))

- 10.2 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee:-

1. Acknowledge the recommendation approved at the Strategy and Resources Committee on 5 July 2022. "Policy Committees will be asked to develop savings / additional income options that cover their own pressures – in effect cash standstill" and to "require Policy Committees to report at their meetings in September on how they can balance their budgets."
2. Note, as this Committee's initial response to the Strategy and Resources Committee's request, the set of budget proposals set out in this report, including Part 2 of the report.
3. Note that Officers will now work with Members to consult with relevant stakeholders (including with partners, trades unions and in respect of equalities and climate change) on the proposals in this report so as to inform final budget proposals.
4. Note that Officers will work to develop any necessary detailed implementation plans for the proposals in this report so that the proposals, if ultimately approved, can be implemented as planned before or during the 2023/24 financial year.
5. Ask to receive a further report in November that will set out the final budget for this Committee following consultation and any adjustments requested by the Strategy and Resources Committee.

10.3 **Reasons for Decision**

- 10.3.1 Members are asked to note the unsustainable financial position highlighted by the medium-term financial analysis presented to Strategy and Resources Committee in July 2022. This report and its recommendations, sets out the scale of the challenge ahead, the limited resources available and some of the difficult decisions that will need to be taken.

10.4 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

- 10.4.1 The Council is required to both set a balance budget and to ensure that in-year income and expenditure are balanced. No other alternatives were considered.