

Minutes of the meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor Legg (Chair)
Councillors Akter, Alexander, Bowyer, Carr, Cryer-Whitehead, Lancaster, Marlow, Miles, Trendall, Wallis and Williams

Officers: N Allen (Head of Regulatory Services), S Teesdale (Licensing and Business Manager), K Hulatt (Acting Head of Legal Services), J Agar (Taxi Licensing Manager), E Fisher (Senior Practitioner) and J Crighton (Committee Manager)

Also Present: A Sciberras (Development Surveyor [Milton Keynes Development Partnership]) and four members of the public

Apology: Councillor Green

RC17 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Regulatory Committee held on 25 November and the meetings of the Regulatory Sub-Committees held on 21 October 2019 and 4 November 2019, be approved and signed by the Chair as correct records.

RC18 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None disclosed.

RC19 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

The Committee received a question from Mr Alan Haslehurst requesting the Committee to look at reviewing the vehicle age policy for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage disabled access vehicles as his company was finding it difficult to meet the six year policy for new applications.

Mr Haslehurst was asked to submit his concerns to the Taxi Licensing Manager who would discuss the matter with the Chair and Vice-Chairs and report back to a future meeting of the Committee.

HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES AND CASHLESS PAYMENTS

The Committee considered a report from the Taxi Licensing Manager on Hackney Carriage vehicles and cashless payments.

It was reported that, in July 2019, the Milton Keynes Taxi Association had requested that the Council place a condition on all Hackney Carriage vehicle licenses to provide debit / credit card (cashless) payment facilities within their vehicles as this would decrease the number of drivers refusing short journeys and would also improve customer service and driver safety.

The Committee noted that, in January 2020, a consultation on the proposal had taken place with Hackney Carriage proprietors, of which 68% supported the condition.

It was reported that neighbouring authorities; Northampton Borough Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council and South Northants Council, did not have a vehicle condition on cashless payments.

The Committee also noted that in areas of Milton Keynes that had a poor signal, it would be the responsibility of the driver to either:

- (a) advise the customer at the beginning of the journey that they would need to pay in cash if a signal was not possible; or
- (b) advise the customer that they would need to move their vehicle from the destination point until they received a signal.

RESOLVED -

1. That the following conditions be placed with immediate effect on all new Hackney Carriage vehicle applications (if applicable) and at the time of renewal on existing licenses:
 - (a) no Milton Keynes Hackney Carriage vehicle be used to carry passengers on a hire and reward basis unless the means to process credit, debit and pre-loaded payment card transactions is carried on board and provided as a service; and
 - (b) all Hackney Carriage vehicles must display signage on the passenger and driver doors or windows stating that they can provide cashless payment services.
2. That the Head of Transport, or the Director Environment and Property, be permitted to make appropriate short / medium changes to these conditions should market forces or technological advances require such a change, and any changes to these conditions to be reported to the next available meeting of the Regulatory Committee.

AMENDMENT TO STREET TRADING RESTRICTIONS IN CENTRAL MILTON KEYNES (STATION SQUARE)

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Practitioner on an amendment to the street trading restrictions at Station Square, Central Milton Keynes.

It was reported that Milton Keynes Development Partnership had requested the Council to consider removing street trading restrictions at Station Square, in order to facilitate a development to improve the Square by introducing community activity to make it feel more welcoming, pleasant and sociable. The development would also improve transport links and digital infrastructure and create a cycling hub.

Mr A Sciberras (Development Surveyor [Milton Keynes Development Partnership]) informed the Committee that the Partnership had carried out a consultation with the public and businesses and, in summary, responses had identified the following issues with Station Square:

- (a) it was unattractive;
- (b) it was missing vibrancy, colour and greenery;
- (c) there was support for retail and cultural use; and
- (d) there was a need to improve lighting in order to reduce public safety.

Mr Sciberras reported that the Partnership was in a position to submit a request for planning permission.

The Senior Practitioner informed the Committee that a statutory process had to take place before the Council was able to impose changes to street trading restrictions. This process involved public notices and consultation with the Police and Highways Authority, together with wider stakeholders such as Planning and Environmental Health departments, the Town Council and Ward Councillors.

It was also reported that, following the statutory consultation, a further report would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee or a Regulatory Sub-Committee.

RESOLVED -

1. That a notice of intention to pass a resolution in respect of street trading restrictions affecting Station Square, Central Milton Keynes, be published.
2. That officers undertake the statutory process and consultation and a further report be provided to a future meeting of the Committee or a Regulatory Sub-Committee.

RC22

**INFORMATION ITEM - STADIUM SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP
CONSTITUTION AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee considered a report from the Senior Practitioner on the Stadium Safety Advisory Group Constitution and Terms of Reference.

It was reported that the Council had a policy document that provided a framework as to how the Stadium Safety Advisory Group operated.

The Committee noted that, following changes to best practice guidance, a review of the policy had been undertaken so it remained fit for purpose.

RESOLVED -

That the revised Constitution and Terms of Reference 2019/22 be endorsed.

RC23

DELEGATIONS TO THE REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

The Committee considered a report from the Acting Head of Legal Services on the Delegations to the Regulatory Sub-Committee and officer colleagues.

It was reported that, following significant changes to the Council's Constitution, there was a requirement to amend the Scheme of Delegation.

It was also reported that the Council delegated a number of regulatory functions to the Committee but, in many cases, it was not appropriate to discharge these in its full form, and the Committee could delegate these functions, or decision to be undertaken or made by officers or by a Sub-Committee of the main Committee.

RESOLVED -

That the item be deferred to a future a meeting of the Committee to allow further discussions between officer colleagues and the Chair and Vice-Chairs.

RC24

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Regulatory Committee would be provisionally held on Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 6.35 pm or on the conclusion of the Licensing Committee, whichever was the later.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.35 PM