



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

4TH MAY 2021

UNITE TRADE UNION AND RCT TAXI TRADE

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES**

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform Licensing Committee of the establishment by the UNITE Union of an RCT Branch to represent the taxi drivers licenced to operate by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- a) Endorse the establishment of the RCT Branch of UNITE Union that will represent taxi drivers licenced to operate by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The establishment of a Trade Union to represent the licenced taxi trade in RCT could offer the following opportunities.

- Facilitate regular meeting between the Trade Union and Officers to promote engagement and discussion on key issues affecting the trade.
- Reduction in drivers coming directly to staff regarding policy issues: concerns can be raised with the Branch.
- Further Improve Consultation procedures through the representative body which will ensure the views of the trade are gathered. Experience in other areas shows this can be extremely useful when done effectively and appropriately. While every effort is made by the Council

to consult with the trade on matters relating to their licensable activities, it is recognised that some members of the trade may find it easier to speak through representative bodies.

- The Trade Union could provide support to individual members who are subject to enforcement action by the Council or required to attend Licensing Committee.
- The Union have offered to undertake training for Licensing committee members on the role of the Trade Union in supporting the Taxi Trade.
- UNITE have advised that they would offer support to Non-members regarding taxi trade issues in RCT.

4. **BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 A letter from the UNITE Union was sent to the Leader of the Council and the Chair of Licensing Committee on the 30th March 2021 requesting recognition of the establishment of the RCT Branch that had been established to represent taxi drivers licenced by RCTCBC. In response, a letter was sent by the Head of Public Protection and Regulatory Services followed by a meeting with Branch Representatives on the 20th April 2021.

UNITE advised Officers that in the first three weeks of operating, there are over 100 drivers (25%) of the RCT trade that have signed up for membership with meetings planned with the trade over coming weeks.

A Branch committee has been established and will be supported by the UNITE Regional representative until training of new committee members has been completed and the committee is established.

The Branch have identified a number of key issues that they wish to explore with the Council and Officers will work with the Trade Union and the Trade on taking action as appropriate on these. Key areas are:

- **Fees and Charges-** a request for a review of the current charges and a specific request that the 21/22 uplift to the fees is not implemented.
- **Pontypridd Taxi Rank-** issues with its new, temporary location in Taff Street.

5. **CONCLUSION**

The establishment of a Trade Union by the Taxi Trade in RCT is a positive development that should facilitate improved discussion and engagement with the Trade. Licensing Committee is requested to recognise this development and further reports in relation to the key issues identified by the Trade Union to date will be brought to Committee as required.

