

**MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD ON**

22 November 2016

7.30pm - 8.20pm

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Maggie Hulcoop (Chairman)
Councillor John Strachan (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ian Beckett
Councillor Karen Clempner
Councillor Bill Pryor

Officers

Michael Pitt, Environment and Licensing Manager
Dimple Roopchand, Assistant Solicitor
David Taylor, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Jo Maskell, Governance Support Officer

APOLOGIES

Councillor Nick Churchill
Councillor Lanie Shears

19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

20. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016 are agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

22. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND PETITIONS**

None.

23. **COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

The Committee received its Work Plan for the current municipal year.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the Work Plan is noted;
- (b) a report on disability awareness training be added to the 'unallocated' section of the Work Plan;
- (c) a report 'Licenced Drivers' Medical Providers' be submitted to the March meeting of this Committee.

24. **FEES AND CHARGES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING**

In advance of the Council's 2017/18 budget setting process, the Committee received a report proposing no changes in fees and charges for private hire licensing.

RECOMMENDED that there be no change in fees and charges applying to Private Hire Licensing for the financial year 2016/17.

25. **STANDARD DRIVER LICENSING CONDITIONS REGARDING OFFENCES ETC**

The Committee received a report proposing revisions to the standard private hire licence conditions to reflect drivers' obligation to let the Council know details of accidents, criminal investigations and convictions.

It was noted that amendments would be made to the undertaking on licensing conditions which Hackney Carriage drivers were asked to sign, in order to bring it in line with the proposed revisions to the private hire licence conditions.

In the interests of consistency, the Committee asked that licensing conditions for private hire and Hackney Carriage drivers were harmonised as far as was practicable.

RECOMMENDED to COUNCIL that

- (a) the revised standard licence condition, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report, (clarifying the private hire drivers' obligation to the Council to report details of accidents, criminal investigations and convictions) be approved;
- (b) in the interests of consistency, licence condition requirements for both private hire and Hackney Carriage trades be harmonised as far as is practicable.

26. **LICENSED VEHICLE STANDARDS**

The Committee received a report proposing consultation on suggested revisions to vehicle licences, since the compliance standard was last considered in 2015.

A more detailed explanation of the proposed consultation's methodology was tabled at the meeting.

RESOLVED that

- (a) consultation of stakeholders is approved for the following:
 - (i) on the licensing of single-passenger vehicles for private hire use, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (ii) on the cessation of the requirement for a new Hackney Carriage vehicle when a new licence is issued;
 - (iii) on phasing-in a requirement for all licensed vehicles to be Euro 4 compliant on the basis set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
 - (iv) the introduction of replacement vehicle compliance standards, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report
- (b) a report is submitted to the March meeting of this Committee setting out responses to the consultation and making recommendations that appear appropriate for changes in licensing policy.

27. **DRIVER LICENSING: DRIVING STANDARDS TESTING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Committee received a report proposing revisions to the driver licensing conditions to ensure that applicants completed a taxi driver test before being licensed for the first time by the Council.

Following the Government's recent announcement that the DVSA would no longer offer a 'taxi driving test', only a limited number of alternative providers had been identified in the report. However, the Committee was mindful that this would not be an exhaustive list over time and it would not want to preclude alternative appropriate providers being used in the future.

The Committee confirmed that, despite the challenges outlined in the report, such a 'taxi driving test' would still be required.

It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed in a year's time.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that

- (a) the taxi driver licensing conditions be revised, such that applicants must have satisfactorily completed a taxi driver test as described in paragraph 4 of the report (delivered by The Blue Lamp Trust, IAM Roadsmart or AA Drivetech) before being licensed for the first time by the Council;
- (b) alternative appropriate providers of the 'taxi driving test' be considered should they materialise in the future;
- (c) the driving standards testing arrangements be reviewed in one year's time.

28. **REFERENCES FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

None.

29. **MATTERS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE