

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 12th July 2016

**Present: Councillor Hughes (in the Chair)
Councillors Crawford, Janet Eaton, James Eaton,
Farrington, Johnson, Neal, Smallridge, Steen and Walmsley**

**In Attendance: Clare Birtwistle, Legal Services Manager
Jenni Cook, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: 25 members of the taxi trade/public
0 members of the press**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received on behalf of Councillor Shipley (Councillor Janet Eaton substituting) and Councillor Cheetham (Councillor Steen substituting) and Councillor M. Smith (Councillor Walmsley).

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 1st March 2016 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Driver Sub-Committees at Item A3(a) to (f) be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. REVIEW OF TAXI POLICY

- 6.1 The Legal Services Manager introduced the report which updated members on service improvement, implementation of the Basic Skills Assessment and mandatory awareness training. The report also sought approval from members to commence a 6 week consultation on the review of the Policy for the Licensing of Hackney Carriage Drivers and Vehicles, Private Hire Operators, Drivers and Vehicles, Intended Use Policy and Guideline to Convictions.

- 6.2 The Legal Services Manager updated members on the Basic Skills Assessments and noted that this was rolled out on 4th July 2016 and so far 12 out of 29 applicants had passed. The CSE training would be on stream soon and a training provider was being sourced via other authorities. Clarity was also provided on the 30-mile radius with regards to the Intended Use Policy.
- 6.2 Work was being carried out with the trade to provide clarity on the DBS renewal process and it was proposed to commence a 6-week consultation process which would include the items listed within the committee report. Some of these items had been proposed by the trade, including tariff cards, which had not been reviewed since 2007.
- 6.3 The Chair noted that the procedure for speaking at the Licensing Committee allowed for 2 trade representatives to speak, however on this occasion he had agreed to use his discretion to allow an additional speaker to address the Committee.
- 6.4 Mr David Wilson, Mr David Lawrie and Mr Mustafa Khanbai spoke on the item and answered questions for clarification from members. Councillor Oakes spoke on the item.
- 6.5 Discussion took place on the item and the Legal Services Manager provided clarification where required as summarised below:
- Concerns were raised regarding the 6 week consultation period and it was clarified that the next Licensing Committee would be held on 15th November 2016.
 - The cost of CCTV in vehicles was discussed.
 - It was clarified that the trade were being liaised with via the Taxi Liaison Meetings.
 - The consultation and subsequent decision process was clarified.
 - It was clarified that this was a report asking for approval to commence the consultation and was not the consultation document itself.
- 6.6 A proposal was moved and seconded to amend the consultation period stated in the report to 12 weeks. Voting took place on the proposal:-

For	Against	Abstain
4	6	0

- 6.7 The motion failed and a proposal was moved and seconded to amend the consultation period stated in the report to 9 weeks. Voting took place on the proposal:-

For	Against	Abstain
10	0	0

- 6.8 Voting then took place on the recommendations 1.1 and 1.2 in the report, along with the amended consultation period.

Resolved:

1. That the Licensing Committee gave approval to commence consultation on the revision of the policies and guidance relating to the Council's Hackney

Carriage and Private Hire Licensing regime and that the consultation period be for a period of 9 weeks.

2. That the update report was noted.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 7.30pm

CHAIR: _____