

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 6th February 2018

**Present: Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Cllr Cheetham, Cllr Haworth, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Neal, Cllr Shipley and Cllr Crawforth.**

**In Attendance: Phil Morton, Licensing Manager
Abigail Wrench, Legal Services Officer
Joanna Wood, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Also Present: 1 member of the public

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Eaton and Smith.

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 27th September 2017 be agreed subject to the amendment of the date from 2012 to 2021 on Item 6.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

That the minutes of the meetings of the Driver Sub-Committees held on the 21st September 2017, 24th October 2107, 9th November 2017, 28th November 2017, 7th December 2017, 19th December 2017, 12th January 2018 and 17th January 2018 to be approved as a correct recorded.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. REPORT B1 Licensing Update Report

The Licensing Manager introduced the report and provided the Committee with an update in relation to the adoption of a wide range of changes to conditions affecting both drivers and vehicles.

Intended Use Policy was introduced in February 2016, the full impact is only started to take effect.

Currently the total number of hackney carriages licensed by the Council stands at 1165 compared with 2600 in 2016, a reduction of 56%.

The new knowledge and conditions test has been running since June 2017 and is now being taken by all new and renewal drivers.

Since June a total of 640 new applicants and 160 renewal drivers have taken part one of the test.

The figures show that of all the renewal applications received 56 of these were from drivers working in Rossendale. Of these none failed to achieve the required standard.

Discussions have taken place between the Council and Rossendale Taxi Association in relation to the Judicial Review, which led to a mutually agreed settlement. An amendment was agreed in relation to three conditions, namely tinted windows, CCTV and vehicle colour.

The mandatory requirement for CCTV to be fitted in all licensed vehicles was implemented on the 1st January 2018.

From the 1st January 2018, there has been a requirement for all new and replacement hackney carriage vehicles to be white and all new and replacement private hire vehicles to be any colour except white.

During October 2017, the Licensing department were subject to an audit by Lancashire County Council Audit services. Substantial assurance was given that there is a sound and effective system in place.

Discussion took place on the items and the Licensing Manager provided clarification as summarised below;

- Relevant questions on the tests
- Drivers parking on double yellow lines outside schools
- Assistance animals
- Number of outcome of appeals following Licensing Su-Committee decisions
- Grants for CCTV
- Taxi licensed outside the area, subject to Rossendale Policies

Resolved:

All members noted the contents of the update report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 6.55pm

CHAIR: _____