

Minutes

Licensing Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	7 January 2013
Present:	Councillors K Ellis (Chair), Mrs S Duckett, Mrs P Mackay, B Marshall, Mrs K McSherry, Mrs S Ryder, R Sweeting and J Thurlow.
Apologies for Absence:	Councillors Mrs C Mackman, R Sayner and R Sweeting.
Officers Present:	Caroline Fleming - Senior Solicitor, Tim Grogan – Senior Enforcement Officer and Palbinder Mann – Democratic Services Officer

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

32. MINUTES

It was agreed that the grammatical error in paragraph four of item 28 should be amended to read as following:

- **It was explained that taxi vehicles were tested annually and the Council was only allowed to test vehicles for a maximum of three times a year.**

It was agreed that the grammatical error in paragraph five of item 28 should be amended to read as following:

- **After deliberation, the Committee decided to recommend option one as outlined in the report however it was agreed that in response to this, the hardship policy would also have to be considered and this would be done at the next meeting of the Committee in January 2013.**

RESOLVED:

That the Committee receive and approve the minutes of the Licensing Committee on 3 December with the above amendments and that they be signed by the Chair.

33. PROCEDURE

The procedure was noted.

34. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

There was no address from the Chair.

The Committee decided to take the private items first.

35. PRIVATE SESSION

That in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, as there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Section 12A of the Act, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

36. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the **Report L/12/14** which considered whether an application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence should be granted. The applicant was in attendance.

Councillors were given the opportunity to question the applicant in connection with his application. The Committee then discussed the matter and considered their decision on whether the applicant was a 'fit and proper' person to hold a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/14.**
- ii) That the application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence should be GRANTED.**

37. ISSUE CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOUR OF A LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the **Report L/12/15** which outlined a complaint that had been received and considered whether the respective driver was a 'fit and proper' person to drive a Hackney Carriage.

Councillors were given the opportunity to question the driver in connection with the incident. The Committee then discussed the matter and considered their decision on whether the driver was a 'fit and proper' person to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Driver by Selby District Council.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/15.**
- ii) **That the driver be allowed to retain his licence however he have a written WARNING on his record for a period of 6 months.**

38. ISSUE CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOUR OF A LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the **Report L/12/16** which outlined a complaint that had been received and considered whether the respective driver was a 'fit and proper' person to drive a Private Hire Vehicle.

Councillors were given the opportunity to question the applicant in connection with the incident. The Committee then discussed the matter and considered their decision on whether the driver was a 'fit and proper' person to be licensed to drive a Private Hire Vehicle in Selby District.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/16.**
- ii) **That the driver be allowed to retain his licence however he have a written WARNING on his record for a period of 12 months.**

The Committee moved back into public session.

39. APPROVAL TO INCREASE HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFFS

The Committee decided to move this item up the agenda.

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the **Report L/12/13** which sought permission to approve an increase in Hackney Carriage tariffs.

The Senior Enforcement Officer explained that John Richards who was a taxi driver had encouraged responses from other taxi drivers to the consultation and that all the consultation responses were appended to the report. A proposal resulting from the consultation was outlined in the report. Bernard Linnen, a representative for John Richards was present at the meeting due to Mr Richards being unable to attend and explained that there had been no increase in tariffs for two years and other costs such as fuel and insurance had risen.

Discussion took place around Tariff 1 and concern was raised around the proposal to charge for the first $\frac{1}{4}$ mile rather than the first $\frac{3}{4}$ mile. It was explained that this would not lead to a significant rise for a standard journey.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/13.**
- ii) That the Committee agree to raise the tariffs as outlined in the report.**

40. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCING POLICY – A REVIEW OF VEHICLE AGE LIMITS / EMISSION STANDARDS

The Senior Solicitor presented the **Report L/12/11** which outlined proposals for a review of the Council's taxi licensing policy.

The Senior Solicitor informed the Committee that there was currently several different policies which needed pulling together into one overall policy. This would then need to go to consultation and it was of the opinion that the new policy could include information about emissions.

RESOLVED:

- i) That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/11.**
- ii) That the Committee request officers to undertake a review of Selby District Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy with the review to include vehicle age and emission standards.**

41. INCREASE IN LICENSING FEES

The Senior Solicitor presented the **Report L/12/12** which informed the Committee of an increase to current licensing fees.

- i) That the Committee receive and note Report L/12/12 which outlines the increase in licensing fees.**

The meeting closed at 11.25am