

## Minutes

### Licensing Committee

Venue:	Committee Room
Date:	1 December 2014
Present:	Councillors R Sayner (Chair), Mrs S Duckett, Mrs P Mackay, Mrs C Mackman, Mrs K McSherry, D Peart (for K Ellis), Mrs S Ryder, R Sweeting and J Thurlow.
Apologies for Absence:	K Ellis (Sub Dave Peart)
Officers Present:	Caroline Fleming - Senior Solicitor, Tim Grogan – Senior Enforcement Officer, Michelle Dinsdale – Policy Officer, and Palbinder Mann – Democratic Services Officer.

#### **42. MINUTES**

The Committee considered the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 3 November 2014.

#### **RESOLVED:**

**To APPROVE the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 3 November 2014 and they be signed by the Chair.**

#### **43. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **44. PROCEDURE**

The procedure was noted. It was agreed that the last paragraph in the procedure concerning informing the applicant of the decision needed to be clearer and it was agreed that this would be amended.

#### **45. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE**

It was pointed out that at the previous meeting, during the discussion on the outcome of the appeal on JT Mellanbys, the Committee had proposed that a

letter be sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner suggesting that they should make a contribution to costs awarded on the appeal. It was pointed out that this had not been minuted and the Committee requested that this letter now be sent.

**RESOLVED:**

**That a letter be written to the Police and Crime Commissioner addressing the above concerns.**

The Chair agreed to amend the running order of the agenda.

**46. PRIVATE SESSION**

**RESOLVED:**

**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.**

**47. ISSUE CONCERNING THE BEHAVIOUR OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE DRIVER**

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the Report L/14/21 which outlined a complaint that had been received against a licenced Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver. The Committee considered whether the respective driver was a fit and proper person to drive a Hackney Carriage Vehicle. The driver was in attendance with his partner.

Councillors were given the opportunity to question the driver in connection with the matter. The Committee discussed the matter and considered all the relevant issues.

**RESOLVED:**

**To agree that no further action be taken against the driver however he be given a verbal warning with regard to his behaviour.**

The meeting returned to public session.

**48. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING POLICY**

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the Report L/14/20 which provided the outcome of the consultation concerning the review of the Taxi Licensing Policy.

The Committee raised concern at not having an opportunity to see the policy before it would be considered by the Executive and requested that a special meeting should be scheduled to allow the Committee to consider the policy.

The following comments were made by the Committee concerning the policy:

- It was stated that there should be 60% to 40% split for disabled vehicles rather than the 75% to 25% currently proposed.
- There needed to be a system of spot checking to ensure ramps were provided by drivers and therefore it was suggested that each ramp should be marked with the registration number of the respective vehicle.
- There should be a learning test introduced for drivers so that they can display the appropriate knowledge of the district before they commence driving.
- The possibility of having an additional garage for taxi testing to allow greater flexibility for drivers should be looked into.

The Committee also felt the Chief Executive should be invited to a meeting to discuss the concerns of the Committee in relation to support for licensing.

**RESOLVED:**

**To arrange a special meeting on 15 December 2014 to discuss the Taxi Licensing Policy.**

The meeting closed at 11.29am.