

Minutes

Licensing Committee

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby.
Date:	Monday 5 June 2017
Time:	10.00 am
Present:	Councillors C Pearson (Chair), K Ellis (Vice Chair), D Buckle, Mrs J Chilvers, Mrs S Duckett, M Hobson, B Marshall, R Sweeting, J Thurlow, and Mrs D White.
Apologies:	None.
Officers present:	Gillian Marshall, Solicitor to the Council; Rebecca Ware, Solicitor; and Janine Jenkinson, Democratic Services Officer.
Public:	0
Press:	0

1. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 15 May 2017.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 15 May 2017, for signature by the Chair.

2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. START TIME OF LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members agreed that the start time of Licensing Committee meetings should remain as 10 a.m.

RESOLVED:

That Licensing Committee meetings be scheduled for a 10 a.m. start time for the forthcoming year.

4. PROCEDURE

The Committee noted the Licensing Committee procedure.

5. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Chair reported that the Council had appointed a new Licensing Officer, following the recent organisational restructure. Members were informed that the new officer, Sharon Cousins would be starting her new role on 3 July 2017.

Members were reminded that a training session for Licensing Committee members and substitute members had been arranged to take place on 4 July 2017.

The Chair informed the Committee that The Local Government Association and the Institute of Licensing had been exploring options for establishing a national database for taxi and Private Hire Vehicles (PHV) licence refusals and revocations. Members were advised that although a register of refusals and revocations would not on its own solve the challenges in regulating taxis and PHV, it would be an important sector-led step to tackling the problem of individuals making applications in different areas, following a refusal or revocation elsewhere. The Chair advised that the project would begin in June 2017 and was intended to be complete by the end of 2017. Members were informed that the register would be available at no extra cost to all local authorities that were already signed up to National Anti-Fraud Network's existing data and intelligence services. The Chair reported that the Committee would be kept informed of developments regarding the project.

6. APPLICATION FOR A DISCREET PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE (L/17/1)

The Solicitor presented the report which asked the Committee to determine an application for a discreet Private Hire Vehicle Licence.

The applicant, Mr Paul Clayden had applied to the Council for exemption from the following requirements:-

- To display a vehicle plate.
- That the driver (of said vehicle to which the exemption related) should 'wear his badge in such position and manner as to be plainly and distinctly visible'.

The Solicitor explained that the application related to a BMW vehicle, which had an existing Private Hire Vehicle Licence.

The applicant was present and was able to answer questions from Committee members.

The applicant and Solicitor left the meeting whilst the Committee considered the application.

The Solicitor and applicant re-entered the meeting and the Solicitor to the Council confirmed the Committee's decision to grant the application.

RESOLVED:

To GRANT the application for a discreet Private Hire Vehicle Licence to Mr Paul Clayden.

Reason for decision:

The Committee was required to determine the application in accordance with the Council's Licensing Policy.

7. PRIVATE SESSION

RESOLVED:

That, in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted the meeting be not open to the press and public during discussion of the following items as there will be disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12(A) of the Act.

8. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

The Committee considered a report that provided an update regarding recent enforcement action taken by officers, in accordance with their delegated functions in relation to the licensing of Hackney and Private Hire Taxis.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

9. PUBLIC SESSION

RESOLVED:

To return to public session.

10. TAXI LICENSING POLICY (L/17/2)

The Solicitor presented the report and explained that the Council was currently receiving a number of applications for 'discreet' vehicle licences.

The Solicitor explained that given the increasing number of companies providing 'executive' vehicles and the increased number of applications for vehicles to be 'discreetly licensed' coming before Committee, it was

recommended that members gave consideration to implementing an exemption policy / conditions on the grant of a 'discreet' vehicle licence.

Members agreed to establish a working group to fully consider the matter.

RESOLVED:

To establish a working group, involving the following councillors, to consider an exemptions policy / conditions in relation to discreet vehicle licences:

- **Councillor B Marshall**
- **Councillor C Pearson**
- **Councillor Mrs D White**
- **Councillor K Ellis**
- **Councillor Mrs J Chilvers**

11. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE (L/17/3)

The Solicitor advised the Committee that the applicant had not arrived for the meeting.

In view of the applicant's absence, the Committee agreed to defer consideration of the application to allow the applicant a further opportunity to attend.

It was noted that if the applicant failed to attend the next meeting the Committee would make a decision in the absence of the applicant.

RESOLVED:

To DEFER consideration of the application until the next scheduled meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.55 am.