

Minutes

Licensing Committee

Venue:	Committee Room, Civic Centre, Selby.
Date:	Monday 4 December 2017
Time:	10.00 am
Present:	Councillors C Pearson (Chair) K Ellis, D Buckle, Mrs J Chilvers, M Hobson, B Marshall, R Sweeting, J Thurlow, P Welch and Mrs D White.
Officers present:	Rebecca Ware, Solicitor; Sharon Cousins, Licensing Manager; Alison Beaumont, Senior Enforcement Officer and Victoria Foreman, Democratic Services Officer.
Public:	0
Press:	0

44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs S Duckett. Councillor P Welch was in attendance as substitute.

45. MINUTES

The committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2017.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 6 November 2017.

46. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

47. PROCEDURE AND TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Committee considered the Licensing Committee procedure and the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy.

RESOLVED:

To note the Licensing Committee procedure and Council's Taxi Licensing Policy.

48. CHAIR'S ADDRESS TO THE LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Chair informed the Committee that in accordance with an email sent to Councillors by the Licensing Manager, as of 22 November 2017, the Licensing Team had introduced a new process for all new driver applications.

The Committee noted that all potential new drivers would be required to attend the office to meet with a member of the Licensing Team.

The Chair explained that at that meeting, the prospective new driver would be given a copy of the application form and advised how to complete the same. A right to work check would also be carried out to ensure compliance with the Immigration Act 2016.

The Committee acknowledged that in addition, as of 22 November 2017, it was a requirement that all new applicants would need to have completed a Knowledge and Safeguarding course in York and submit a 'pass' certificate with the application. No application would be processed until a complete application had been received.

The Chair continued his address by explaining that the Institute of Licensing had written to the Government to raise concerns about failings in the taxi and private hire licensing system that it claimed were putting public safety at risk. The Institute had highlighted members' views on a range of issues including the levels of checks and data sharing with police.

Members noted that in addition, the Institute was currently leading on a project to develop a national model convictions policy for licensing authorities to consider adopting locally. It had been working with the Local Government Association and the National Association of Licensing and Enforcement Officers on the project, and the aim was to consult on the draft document imminently. The Committee would be updated as appropriately.

Lastly, the Committee were informed that the second meeting of the Working Group would be taking place on 12 December 2017; the Committee would be kept up to date on the progress of the Working Group.

49. TAXI LICENCE PLATES

The Committee received an update from the Licensing Manager in relation to taxi licence plate design, and were asked to confirm the type of design to be

used going forward. The team would now be producing the plates themselves, instead of using an external company.

The Committee considered a number of different options, and emphasised the importance of the plates being clear and readable for all members of the public, including those with impaired vision.

The signs to be affixed to the front door panels of licensed vehicles were agreed by the Committee, but it was felt the shade of red used should be brighter.

The Committee noted that the new-style plates would be easier to produce and dispose of, and would be difficult to forge. There would be one-off initial outlay costs for the purchase of the machine that made the plates, but that the service the Licensing Team would be able to provide to drivers would be faster and more efficient, and more cost-effective in the long-term.

The Committee considered the different designs for license plates on the external front and back and internal dashboards of vehicles, and agreed that the designs with the bolder text would be clearer and more appropriate.

RESOLVED:

- i. **To agree the design and use of adhesive front side-panel signs on licensed vehicles in Selby District, with an additional recommendation from the Committee that the shade of red used on the signs be made brighter.**
- ii. **To agree the design and use of the licence plates with bolder text on licensed vehicles in Selby District, as indicated by the Committee at the meeting.**

50. PRIVATE SESSION

It was proposed and seconded that the committee sit in private session due to the nature of the business to be transacted.

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.

51. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S AND OPERATOR'S LICENCE (L/17/15)

The Licensing Manager presented the report, which asked the Committee to determine an application for a private hire driver's and operator's licence. The applicant was present and made a statement to the Committee regarding the application.

The applicant and the Licensing Manager left the room while the Committee considered the application.

The Committee resolved to grant the licence for the private hire driver and operator.

RESOLVED:

To GRANT the private hire driver's and operator's licence.

Reason for decision:

The committee was satisfied that the applicant was a 'fit and proper person' in accordance with the Council's Licensing Policy and that public safety would not be compromised by granting the discreet licence.

51. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE (L/17/16)

The Senior Enforcement Officer presented the report, which detailed recent enforcement action taken in relation to a licenced Private Hire Vehicle and Hackney Carriage driver.

The report highlighted that the driver in question had recently appeared in court, whereupon he pleaded guilty to the offence of plying for hire in an unlicensed vehicle, and was subsequently fined. In court, other offences came to light, and the driver was advised he would be brought before the Licensing Committee for the Committee to consider whether, in light of the above, he remained a 'fit and proper' person to hold a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's licence.

The Senior Enforcement Officer explained that the driver had stated that he had moved out of the area and had no intention of driving in the District in the future, and as such, voluntarily surrendered his Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licences.

The Committee asked officers to inform the Licensing Team at the local authority to which the driver had moved to, should he attempt to obtain a licence or commit other offences in that area.

RESOLVED:

To note the report.

The meeting closed at 10.40am