



Minutes

Policy Review Committee

Venue: Committee Room

Date: Tuesday 15 November 2016

Time: 5.00pm

Present: Councillors J Deans (Chair), M Hobson (Vice Chair), K Arthur, J Cattanach, D Hutchinson, R Packham and Mrs J Shaw-Wright.

Apologies for Absence: None.

Officers Present: Chris Watson – Assistant Policy Officer, Gillian Marshall, Solicitor to the Council, and Janine Jenkinson - Democratic Services Officer.

14. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15. MINUTES

The Committee considered the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2016.

RESOLVED:

To approve the minutes of the Policy Review Committee held on 13 September 2016 for signature by the Chair.

16. CHAIR'S ADDRESS

There was no address from the Chair.

17. DRAFT CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS POLICY

The Assistant Policy Officer presented a report that set out the Council's draft Charitable Collection Policy.

Members were informed that charitable collections fell into two categories: Street Collections and House to House Collections. The Assistant Policy Officer explained that the Council currently had no charitable collections policy in place, as there was no legislative requirement; however it was considered best practice to implement a policy.

The Committee was invited to comment on the draft Policy as part of the consultation process.

With regard to point 2.2 of the report – 'The Policy Review Committee asked for a limit to be included', members requested that the word 'limit' be replaced with the word 'minimum'.

In relation to consultation responses, the Assistant Policy Officer reported that nine responses had been received from members of the public and no responses had been received from other consultees, including The Charity Commission, North Yorkshire Police, and Trading Standards. The Assistant Policy Officer agreed to follow up responses from the regulatory bodies.

With regard to point 5.10 of the report, it was suggested that the sentence beginning 'You can also submit a return..' be replaced with 'A return form can be submitted online at...'

A query was raised in relation to the use of the word 'excessive' in point 5.6 of the report. Members felt the word excessive was vague and was open to interpretation and therefore requested the wording be re-considered.

The Committee noted that street collectors would be asked to carry out collections in-line with the Council's Voluntary Code of Conduct and the Fundraising Regulator 'Code of Fundraising Practice'.

In response to a query about how members of the public would know if a house to house collection was being undertaken by a legitimate charity, the Assistant Policy Officer explained that the Council's website would list the permitted house to house collections by an organisation taking place in an area at any one time. Collections undertaken by a business rather than a charity would not be required to obtain a permit and therefore the Council was unable to control these collections.

RESOLVED:

To endorse the draft Charitable Collections Policy, subject to the comments outlined above being taken into consideration by the Executive.

18. TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Solicitor to the Council presented a report that outlined a change to the requirements of the Taxi Licensing Policy and the options available to the Council.

Members were informed that the Taxi Licensing Policy approved by the Council's Executive in October 2015 required applicants for driver licenses to pass a specialist Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) test for taxi and private hire drivers. The Council had been informed that from January 2017, these tests would no longer be available. The Solicitor to the Council explained the options available to the Council as a result of the change and sought members' views and comments that would be subsequently used to inform the proposals presented to the Council's Executive.

The Committee was informed that there were three options for consideration:

- Option A: Cease the requirement for drivers to pass an additional level of driving test.
- Option B: Substitute one private provider for the DVSA in the policy.
- Option C: Allow drivers to provide a test certificate from one of a range of private providers on an approved list kept by the Council.

Officers had recommended Option C, as it allowed greater flexibility and choice for drivers whilst also ensuring that companies added to the approved list were providing a test of sufficient rigour.

The Solicitor to the Council explained that should Option C be approved, the following three providers could be appointed at this time, pending a full review of the options:

- Blue Lamp Trust
- Green Penny
- Elite Driver Training (Diamond)

Members were advised that Blue Lamp Trust and Green Penny were not DVSA accredited but their test was to DVSA standard. It was noted that Diamond was DVSA accredited.

The Committee was informed that currently there were four road safety charities/ driver representative bodies that had advanced driving tests whose content and delivery had been accredited by the DVSA Agency, these were:

- Institute of Advanced Motorists
- Driving Instructors Association
- AA Drive Teach
- ROSPA

Members were advised that if minded to endorse Option C, these companies could be included on the approved list of test providers.

RESOLVED:

- I. **To recommend to the Executive that the Taxi Licensing Policy be amended to reflect Option C as set out above.**

- II. **To recommend to the Executive that the following companies be included on the approved list of test providers:**
 - **Institute of Advanced Motorists**
 - **Driving Instructors Association**
 - **AA Drive Tech**
 - **ROSPA**
 - **Blue Lamp Trust**
 - **Green Penny**
 - **Elite Driver Training**

19. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

Members considered the Committee Work Programme 2016/17.

It was noted that the Committee had been due to receive an update regarding PLAN Selby, but that it had not yet been possible to arrange. Members requested that the Committee be provided with an update as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

- I. **To note the Work Programme 2016/17.**

- II. **To request that a PLAN Selby update be provided to the Committee as soon as possible.**

The meeting closed at 5.33 p.m.