

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
17 JULY 2014

Present: Councillor Jackson (Chair)
Councillors Barker, Hezelgrave, Hickson, J Khan, Pegg, Sandhu, Poulter,
Roberts and Skelton

01/14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Eldret, Whitby, Redfern, Keith, A Holmes and Poulter.

02/14 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

03/14 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/14 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 April 2014 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

05/14 Licensed Drivers' NVQ Qualification

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on licensed drivers' NVQ qualification. It was reported that in December 2008, Committee considered a report in relation to introducing the requirement for training and qualifications to be mandatory for all hackney carriage and private hire drivers. Members noted that in September 2009, the Council introduced a mandatory requirement that all holders of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences were required to have passed the NVQ in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving level 2. For existing drivers, the requirement was that they acquire the qualification within 5 years of the adoption of the policy of the Council. For new drivers, the requirement was that they acquire the qualification within five years of their licence being issued. This meant that the target date for compliance would begin to roll out from September 2014. The officer reported that some drivers had not provided the necessary confirmation that they have completed the training and the reports sets out proposals for what action is necessary to deal with this matter.

It was noted that currently 45 hackney carriage drivers and 105 private hire drivers that had not provided the evidence to the Licensing Team, despite several reminder letters being sent to the individual licensed drivers and information regarding the availability of courses around the country being passed to the trade, via at the Licensed Trade meetings and via letter.

The officers reported that under the current scheme of delegation, drivers who had not complied with the conditions attached to their licence would be referred to the Sub Committee. Currently this course of action would require in excess of thirty additional meetings.

Members raised concern as to the locality of the courses and their availability to provide the qualification. Officers confirmed that a company in Nottingham could provide the course, with no current waiting list, and that attendance would only be required for a limited number of days at the venue and the majority of the qualification being self learning.

Resolved to delegate the power to the Service Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, to take the action set out in Appendix 2 to the report against drivers who have not provided the necessary confirmation that they have completed the NVQA in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving Level 2.