

Time commenced 6:03 pm  
Time finished 7:19 pm

## TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 29 JUNE 2011

**Present:** Councillor Marshall (in the Chair)  
Councillors Barker, Harwood, Jackson, Leeming, Rawson, Redfern,  
Richards, Whitby and F Winter

### 01/11 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Atwal, S Khan, Tuplin and L Winter

### 02/11 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

### 03/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 04/11 Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2011

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 April 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### 05/11 Use of Mobile Technological Devices in Licensed Vehicles

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the use of Mobile Technological Devices in Licensed Vehicles. The Environmental Health Manager, Mike Kay, reported that the Council's principal duty is to protect the safety and welfare of the public and that therefore there is a need to ensure that rules relating to the use of mobile technological devices covers reasonable safety concerns raised by customers. It was noted that since the last review of the use of Mobile Devices, there had been 8 complaints from fare paying passengers about drivers using mobile devices whilst transporting them and 13 in the last 2 years. Members asked about the practicalities of enforcing rules relating to Mobile Technological Devices and it was noted that as a problem had been identified in this area, it was the Council's duty to investigate the issues raised. Members noted that authorising a consultation with the Taxi

Trade on a new set of licence conditions in this area would result in a final decision being taken at a later Committee once representations had been received.

**Resolved to consult with the Taxi Trade on the introduction of a new set of licence conditions on the use of Mobile Technological Devices**

## 06/11      Review of Driver Training and Qualifications

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on driver training and qualifications. The Environmental Health Manager, Mike Kay, explained that in November 2009 the Council introduced a requirement for all licensed drivers to obtain a relevant qualification and a review of this requirement was necessary to ensure that it remains effective. He added that the currently approved BTEC and NVQ qualifications had been updated as part of the new Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) qualification system. The BTEC certification is now the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver (QCF) and the NVQ certification is now the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver (QCF). Mike Kay summarised what the training syllabus of each covered.

Members questioned whether it would be helpful to stipulate 1 provider so as to be sure of the quality of the courses being delivered. The Head of Legal Services (General), Olu Idowu, reported that such a measure would trigger the Council's tendering rules. It was added that it was the role of the QCF to monitor and accredit the centres delivering such courses. Members also questioned the cost of the courses and Mike Kay reported that this was difficult to provide as costs varied between providers, however previous figures obtained were between £800 - £1200. He also reported to the Committee that 41% of Hackney Carriage drivers and 35% of Private Hire drivers had provided evidence that they had completed the NVQ.

Members considered what changes to the decision options for the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee should be made in relation to training and qualifications and whether to impose a time frame for completion on drivers.

**Resolved:**

- 1. to retain the mandatory requirement that all holders of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers licences are required to obtain a relevant qualification;**

- 2. that the mandatory relevant qualification for holders of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers licences will be the Edexcel NVQ Level 2 Certificate in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving (Taxi and Private Hire) (QCF) or equivalent;**
- 3. to amend the decision options for the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee to read as follows:**
  - Take no action**
  - Issue a warning**
  - Undertake the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver (QCF) (or equivalent) training within six months**
  - Suspend the licence**
  - Suspend the licence and undertake the Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver (QCF) (or equivalent) training within six months**
  - Revoke the licence/s**

MINUTES END