

Time commenced	6:23 pm
Time finished	7:35 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

20 FEBRUARY 2014

Present: Councillor Jackson (Chair)
Councillors Barker, Harwood, J Khan, Keith, S Khan, Poulter, Roberts, Skelton, Whitby and F Winter

32/13 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Roberts and L Winter.

33/13 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following items on the grounds that the information was not available at the time the agenda was published:

- Third Party Vehicle Update

34/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

35/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

36/12 Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2014/15

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods that set out the proposed fees and charges for 2014/15. It was noted that at the last meeting of the Committee Members had resolved to approve the fees and charges subject to the consideration of representations received.

It was reported that two representations had been received, the first from Derby Area Taxi Operators Association (DATOA), relating to the charges proposed for the replacement of the quarter light stickers and the internal signs, claiming that they were excessive. The second from Mr Kevin Rowland, representing Chads Cars and Albatross Cars, relating to his view on the legality of the way in which the private hire operator licence fees have been calculated.

Officers reported that a tender process would be undertaken in relation to the replacement costs raised by DATOA. It was noted that no further action would be taken in relation to Mr Rowland's representation.

Resolved to approve the taxi licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operators licence and other charges for 2014/15 as set out in the report.

37/12 Executive Use of Private Hire Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the executive use of private hire vehicles. It was reported that a formal request had been received from Oakwood Executive Cars Ltd via the Licensed Trade Meeting for the decision to be reviewed with regard to the requirement for company signs and a plate to be displayed on licensed private hire vehicles operating as an executive car hire business.

Resolved:

- 1. to authorise the Licensing Team to undertake research and review the original decision of Council;**
- 2. to report back to the Taxi Licensing and Appeals with recommendations for amendment to the policy, where appropriate, following consultation with relevant stakeholders.**

38/12 Taxi Licensing Administration and Compliance Activities – Quarter 3 2013-14

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the taxi licensing administration and compliance activities for quarter 3 2013-14.

Members raised queries as to whether the vehicles that were stopped during the inspections by officers were random checks. It was reported that the enforcement officers asked drivers to stop their vehicle for inspection based on officer suspicion. This was a legal requirement to do so. The Committee noted with concern that during these inspections, the number of vehicles with serious defects was on the increase.

Resolved to note the contents of the report, however the Committee wished to register their concern that the level of serious defects on the inspected vehicles was increasing.

39/12 Disapplication of Private Hire Operator Licence Conditions

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the disapplication of private hire operator licence conditions. It was reported that a letter had been received from Mr Kevin Rowland representing Albatross Cars Ltd requesting that Conditions 34-38 inclusive were not attached to the Operator's Licence for Albatross Cars Ltd.

The Committee invited Mr Rowland to present any further submissions to them verbally.

Members reported that they considered that the conditions to be necessary and proportionate to safe guard the fare payers, using private hire vehicles within the City.

Resolved to reject the request from Albatross Cars Ltd that standard conditions 34-38 inclusive were not attached to the Operator's Licence for Albatross Cars Ltd.

40/13 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved to exclude the press and public during consideration of following item under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

41/12 Third Party Vehicle Update

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the third party vehicle update.

Resolved to note the information contained within the report.