

Time commenced – 7.20pm  
Time finished – 8.15pm

**TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
**21 APRIL 2010**

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)  
Councillors Baxter, Berry, Hird, Leeming, Poulter, Rawson,  
Tuplin, Williams and Winter

**34/09 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hussain, Jackson, Skelton, Tuplin and Winter.

**35/09 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were no items.

**36/09 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**37/09 Confirmation of the minutes of the Taxi Licensing  
and Appeals Committee held on 10 February 2010**

The minutes of the meetings held on 10 February 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**38/09 Outcome of Sub Committee Guidelines Review**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on the Outcome of Sub Committee Guidelines Review. It was reported that at the meeting on 16 December 2009, Members agreed to review the Sub Committee Guidelines and a Cross Party Working Group met on 28 January 2010 to review the guidelines. The proposed draft revised Sub Committee guidelines were circulated for consideration by the Committee.

Councillor Redfern thanked Councillors Berry and Tuplin for their contributions at the Cross Party Working Group meeting.

It was reported that the review had brought the guidelines up to date and dealt with the training element of the options now available to Sub Committee.

Members noted that the guidelines were a useful document when making decisions at the Sub Committee.

**Resolved to approve the proposed amendments to the Sub Committee Guidelines made by the Cross Party Working Group.**

## **39/09 Enforcement Activities 2010/11**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on enforcement activities. It was reported that at Committee on 10 February 2010, Members discussed the proposed fees and charges for 2010/11 and agreed that, due to the continuing difficult economic climate, there would be no increase. At the same time, Members were also clear that they did not wish to see enforcement activities reduced to compensate for this and were made aware of the request from the trade to carry out more enforcement work in addition to the exercises carried out with VOSA and the police. Officers were asked to produce a plan of enforcement activities for the 2010/11 period, which was circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

### **Resolved:**

- 1. to agree the report regarding the planned enforcement activities for 2010/11;**
- 2. to approve the use of money from the reserve to undertake the proposed enforcement activities.**

## **40/09 “Cabbie of the Year” Award**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on the introduction of an annual “Cabbie of the Year” Award. At Committee on 10 February 2010, Members recognised that many drivers went over and above the duties required of them during the course of their work and to show Committee’s appreciation of this, it would be a nice gesture to organise a ‘Cabbie of the Year’ award. Members’ also considered that such a measure could also usefully drive up standards within the trade, with trade members seeing the award as aspirational. Members requested officers provide further details of the likely costs involved with arranging such an award. It was noted that costs would be dependent on how the process was implemented.

The officer reported that organisational tasks such as promoting the award, requesting nominations and processing them would be relatively simple and inexpensive to undertake, costing no more than £1,000. Officers from the taxi licensing team would carry this out. The award would be judged by a panel of Committee Members, one from each party. The criteria used to select a winner

would be 'exemplary service given to taxi users' and those people wishing to make nominations would be asked to describe/justify how and why they felt this had been demonstrated.

Members welcomed the report and noted that this was the first award of its kind in the City. It was felt that this would be an opportunity to promote the services of the taxi drivers in the City, whilst recognising those drivers that do a good job, as well as promoting public confidence in the services offered.

**Resolved to agree the report, and the proposal, for introducing an award for 'Cabbie of the Year';**

#### 41/09      Derby Knowledge

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on Derby Knowledge. It was noted that working with Visit Peak District, Derby Tourism and Taxi Trade Representations, the Taxi Licensing Team had been developing a presentation to extend licensed drivers' knowledge of the city and the surrounding area. Initially, the presentation would be offered to drivers who have completed their NVQ qualifications and was funded by East Midlands Tourism. The officer reported that depending on the take-up a number of events would be rolled out over the next couple of months.

**Resolved to note report regarding the pilot training being offered to licensed drivers.**

#### 42/09      ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on ISA Vetting and Barring Scheme. The Vetting and Barring Scheme was established by Central Government to reduce the risk of harm to children and vulnerable adults. It would do this by identifying individuals whose information suggested they were unsuitable to work with children and vulnerable adults, and barring them from gaining access to such people by working with them in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Olu Idowu, Principal Solicitor, informed the Committee that the emphasis of the guidance was on the potential for a relationship to be formed because of regular contact with the vulnerable groups which some drivers may have. This being the case, there would be no justifiable basis for requiring all licensed drivers to be subject to the additional check. It was reported that because licensing rules must apply uniformly, the scheme is outside of the scope of the licensing teams remit, although this does not mean it is outside the scope of the Council's obligations altogether. It is understood that other Council departments issue stand alone contracts to individual drivers to enable them to convey school children around

the City on a regular basis. Those other departments rely on the knowledge that the Licensing Team had issued a license already.

Members felt that as the scheme was not in the Licensing Teams remit, licensed drivers should not be required to undertake the additional level of check. However, they considered that all relevant Service Directors should be written to advising them of the scope of Licensing Officers' authority and the onus placed on their respective services under the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

**Resolved**

- 1. to note the report regarding the new Independent Safeguarding Authority Vetting and Barring Scheme regarding the potential implications it has on some licensed drivers;**
- 2. to not require all of the Council's licensed drivers to undertake the additional level of check;**
- 3. to write to all relevant Service Directors advising them of the scope of Licensing Officers' authority, and the onus placed on their respective services to independently verify the suitability of those licensed drivers that they enter into contracts with under the Vetting and Barring Scheme.**

**43/09 Taxi Licensing and Enforcement Activities 2009/10  
– Quarter 3 and 4**

The statistics for taxi licensing and associated licensing enforcement activities for quarter three and four of 2009/10 were circulated to Members.

**Resolved to note the contents of the report.**

MINUTES END