

Time Commenced: 6:00pm

Time Finished: 7:10pm

LICENSING COMMITTEE

9 November 2017

Present: Councillor Sandhu (Chair)
Councillors Ashburner, Barker, Froggatt, Hezelgrave, A Holmes, Ingall,
Keith, J Khan, S Khan, Pegg, Poulter, Smale and Winter

In Attendance: Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services
Mike Kay – Head of Environmental Health and Licensing
Olu Idowu – Solicitor
Sandra Mansell – Team Leader – Licensing
Jody Shelton – Democratic Services Officer

17/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Jackson.

18/17 Late Items

In accordance with Section 100 (B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following late item on the grounds that it should be considered as a matter of urgency because a decision was required before the next meeting:

Request for Evidence on the Cross – Border Hiring of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles.

19/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

20/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2017 were confirmed as a correct record.

21/17 Condition and Safety of Licensed Vehicles in Derby City

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the Condition and Safety of Licensed Vehicles in Derby City. It was reported that correspondence had been received from Derbyshire Constabulary which raised concerns about the condition and safety of the private hire and hackney carriage fleet in the City.

Chief Superintendent, Jim Allen, along with PC Lee Simpson, addressed Members to express their concerns and showed the Committee a presentation that demonstrated how badly corroded the inspected taxis were. It was highlighted that some were so corroded that in the event of a crash the seat could fly out of the vehicle and cause who knows what damage. Mr Allen said that the police inspect up to 40 taxis per month in random spot checks but had seen increasingly high failure rates on hackney carriage vehicles recently. He said that approximately 25 to 40% of the vehicles inspected in Derby were in such a poor condition they were taken off the roads altogether. It was noted that this was significantly higher than the surrounding boroughs, which only have taken 10 to 20% of vehicles off the streets.

Chief Superintendent suggested that when cars reach a certain age, inspection checks should be conducted on a more than yearly basis. The Committee were informed that checks into the condition of the car were only conducted by Derby City Council licensed centres once per year; however, in surrounding boroughs checks were typically conducted twice per year. There was also no age restriction on Derby vehicles operating within the City, but the surrounding areas do implement an age restriction. This rule typically sets restrictions on bans on vehicles ranging from 8 to 12 years old and above.

Councillor Barker stated that one dangerous vehicle on the road was too many.

Councillor Hezelgrave wanted to know what the time period was between the cars last checked by the Council provider and when they were inspected by the police. It was suggested that this would hopefully allow the Council to test whether or not the Council-licensed facilities were working properly. Councillor Hezelgrave also suggested that compiling a list of common faults to send to taxi drivers to help educate themselves in how to maintain their vehicle. Mr Jim Allen agreed these to be a wise course of action and would support the Council in these actions.

Councillor Barker suggested that usual practise would be the implementation of a cross party working group to tackle this problem and report their findings to the Committee.

Resolved

- 1. To note the content of the letter received from Derbyshire Constabulary about the condition and safety of the private hire and hackney carriage fleet in Derby City;**
- 2. To request that the Director of Communities Environment and Regulatory Services investigates and reports back to Licensing Committee on options available to address the concerns raised by Derbyshire Constabulary;**
- 3. to set up a cross party working group, comprising of Councillors J Khan, Froggatt, S Khan, Barker, Keith, A Holmes and Ashburner to look at the proposals and extend of the concerns raised.**

22/17 Termination of Approved Contract

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the Termination of Approved Garage Contract. It was reported that Derby City Council had a contractual agreement with MOT Place (Derby) Ltd for the inspection and testing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. In Sept 2017, the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency notified the Licensing Team that the company were not authorised to carry out MOT's on behalf of the Secretary of State. The Contract with MOT Place (Derby) Ltd was terminated with immediate effect on 22 September 2017.

Resolved to note the report.

**23/17 General Licensing Administration and Compliance
 Activities Q1 – 2017/18**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the activities the general licensing service has undertaken during quarter 1 of the 2017/18 financial year.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

**24/17 General Licensing Administration and Compliance
 Activities – Q2 2017/18**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the activities the general licensing service has undertaken during quarter 2 of the 2017/18 financial year.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

**25/17 Taxi Licensing Administration and Compliance
 Activities Q1 – 2018/18**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the activities the taxi licensing service has undertaken during quarter 1 of the 2017/18 financial year.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

**26/17 Taxi Licensing Administration and Compliance
 Activities Q2 2018/18**

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the activities the taxi licensing service has undertaken during quarter 2 of the 2017/18 financial year.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

27/17 Request for Evidence on the Cross-border Hiring of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

The Committee received a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the request for evidence on the Cross-border Hiring of Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles. It was reported that Transport for London (TfL) was leading on an initiative to lobby for legislative change to address the growing concerns of licensing authorities and parts of the trade, nationally, over cross-border hiring of taxis and private hire trade vehicles. TfL has written to the Leader of the Council seeking the Council's in-principle support to this initiative.

Members were supportive of the initiative and offered to the Leader of the Council, that should further correspondence be required this be delegated to the Committee for them to deal with.

Resolved to note the correspondence received.

MINUTES END