

Time commenced 6:40 pm
Time finished 8:06 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 21 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Barker, Harwood, Keith, J Khan, Pegg, Poulter,
Redfern, Sandhu, Skelton, Whitby, F Winter and L Winter

29/12 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Macdonald.

30/12 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 item on the grounds that the information was not available at the time of publication of this agenda. The item relates to the use of cross-border licensed hackney carriage vehicles for private hire work within the city.

31/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

32/12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2012 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment.

That under 27/12 the report circulated to Members on Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2013/14, contained an omission. Under Appendix 4 of the report, the following should have been listed; £25 fee for hackney carriage quarter light window stickers for new vehicles.

The Head of Service – Environmental Health and Licensing reported that the public notice did not contain the omission. Members were asked to consider whether to:

1. acknowledge the error and proceed to adopt the new fees as advertised, inclusive of the £25 charge; or
2. acknowledge the error and proceed to adopt the new fees without the £25 charge coming into effect.

Resolved to acknowledge the error and proceed to adopt the new fees as advertised, inclusive of the £25 charge at 38/12.

33/12 Information Displayed in Hackney Carriages

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on Information Displayed in Hackney Carriages. The report was presented by the Team Leader – Licensing. It was reported that the following information was currently required to be displayed in the passenger compartment of a hackney carriage:

1. COMPLAINTS sticker
2. Quarter light stickers
3. Fares Scale

Members noted that to encourage negative and positive feedback, it was recommended that the reference to COMPLAINTS in the COMPLAINTS sticker be changed to COMMENTS.

Resolved to agree that the current reference to the word COMPLAINTS in the COMPLAINTS sticker be changed to COMMENTS.

34/12 Request for Approval of the Mercedes-Benz T1 Vito V6 122 CDI (Now Renamed as V6 122 CDI) as a Hackney Carriage

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the Request for Approval of the Mercedes-Benz T1 Vito V6 122 CDI (now Renamed as V6 122 CDI) as a hackney carriage. The report was presented by the Head of Service – Environmental Health and Licensing. It was reported that there were currently eight vehicle types approved to be licensed hackney carriages within Derby City. It was further reported that a request had been received by a current licensed driver for a Mercedes-Benz Vito V6 122 CDI (now renamed as V6 122 CDI) to be approved as a hackney carriage.

Members noted that the vehicle had been inspected by the Licensing Enforcement Officers and met all the specifications for hackney carriages apart from the overall length of the vehicle and the colour, which was black. It was reported that the driver had agreed to ensure that the vehicle would be the required colour (yellow).

Resolved:

1. **to approve the Mercedes-Benz T1 Vito V6 122 CDI (now renamed as V6 122 CDI) as a vehicle type approved as a hackney carriage within Derby City;**
2. **to agree that the word 'type' be inserted after the word 'vehicle' under 2.2 of the report; and**

- 3. to exempt the vehicle type from the vehicle length dimension section of the specification.**

35/12 Taxi Licensing and Enforcement Activities 2012/13 – Quarter 3

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on Taxi Licensing and Enforcement Activities – Quarter 3 2012/13. The report was presented by the Head of Service – Environmental Health and Licensing. Members noted that the report provided information on the activities the licensing service had undertaken during quarter 3 of the 2012/13 financial year.

Resolved to note the report.

36/12 Advertising on Private Hire Vehicles – request for exemption from condition 11

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on Advertising on Private Hire Vehicles – Request for Exemption from Condition 11. The report was presented by the Team Leader – Licensing. Members noted that at the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 6 December 2012, the Committee resolved to introduce standardised door signage with or without advertisements. It was reported that a copy of a revised draft door sign had been submitted for approval by A2Z Licensing who represent Chad Cars Ltd.

It was further reported that Chad Cards Ltd were requesting that they be allowed to depart from Private Hire Condition 11 (c) 'Operator's company signs shall be displayed on both sides of the vehicle on the front doors and must be a minimum size of at least 40cm in width and 20cm in height' for vehicles that have sliding rear side doors and (e) 'The operators company name shall be in capital letters and a minimum size of 4cm in height and located centrally directly under the words 'ADVANCED BOOKINGS ONLY'.

Resolved

- 1. to refuse the request for the company to depart from Private Hire Condition 11(c); and**
- 2. to approve the request to depart from Private Hire Condition 11(e).**

37/12 Transitional Period for Existing Private Hire Vehicle Door Signage

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on Transitional Period for Existing Private Hire Vehicle Door Signage. The report was presented by the Team Leader – Licensing. Members noted that at the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 6 December 2012, the Committee resolved to introduce standardised door signage with or without advertisements. Members also noted that the report presented on 30 August 2012 in relation to this, stated that if approved, ‘the additional changes will mean that some existing door signs currently in use will not comply with the new condition. It will therefore be necessary to allow a transitional period for the existing door signs to be replaced if an operator does not want to take advantage of the new advertising provision. More consideration of this can be given.’

It was reported that no detailed resolution had been determined by the Committee in relation to the transitional period to be applied.

Resolved to agree a transitional period ending on 31 December 2013 by when the existing door signs must comply with revised door sign conditions if an operator does not want to take advantage of the new advertising provision.

38/12 Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2013/14

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2013/14. The report was presented by the Head of Service – Environmental Health and Licensing. Members noted that a report was presented at Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 6 December 2012 that set out proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 and that the Committee had resolved to:

1. approve the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licence and other charges for 2013/14;
2. authorise the Service Director of Environment and Regulatory Services to advertise the proposed variation of fees; and
3. consider any representations received within the period required and take appropriate action if required.

It was reported that the proposed fees and charges had been advertised and one representation had been received. Members were informed that the report incorrectly stated that, ‘Action has been taken to address the issues raised.’ The officer explained that there had been an omission and the representation had not been responded to. It was reported that the objection had now been considered and responded to and action taken to address the issues raised.

Resolved to approve the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operators licence and other charges for 2013/14.

39/12 Exclusion of the Press and Public

Resolved in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 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.

40/12 The Use of Cross-border Licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles for Private Hire Work Within the City

The Committee considered the use of cross-border licensed hackney carriage vehicles for private hire work within the city.

MINUTES END