

Time Commenced: 6:00pm
Time Finished: 7:15pm

LICENSING COMMITTEE
21 September 2017

Present: Councillor Sandhu (Chair)
Councillors Ashburner, Barker, Froggatt, Hezelgrave, A Holmes, Ingall,
Jackson, 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

10/17 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies received.

11/17 Late Items

There were no late items.

12/17 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13/17 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 July 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

14/17 Request to Increase Hackney Carriage Tariff

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the request to increase the Hackney Carriage Tariff. It was reported that two requests had been received by the Licensing Team from Derby Area Taxi Operators Association (DATOA) and Derby Hackney Union (DHU) to increase the tariff, on the basis it had been a number of years since the last increase.

It was noted that the two trade associations had not agreed a mutually acceptable solution and consequently each had submitted their own proposals for consideration by Committee.

The Licensing officer informed the Licensing Committee of the following amendments to

the report:

Appendix 2 – Tariff 3 should read 06:00

Appendix 3 – Tariff 3 should read £15.20 for 5 miles

Appendix 4 – Tariff 1 should read £7.00 for 3 miles, £8.50 for 4 miles, £10.00 for 5 miles

Appendix 5 – Tariff 1, existing tariff, should read £7.00 for 3 miles, £8.50 for 4 miles, £10.00 for 5 miles and Tariff 3, DHU should read £15.20 for 5 miles.

The legal officer reported that the DHU were not currently recognised by the Council as a hackney carriage trade association, as they had failed to provide the information required, but Members were to be advised to consider the submission from them classed as an application on an individual basis.

Members felt that the requests were reasonable and justified considering the time lapse since the last increase and that the costs of operating hackney carriages continues to rise.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the proposed hackney carriage tariff submitted by the DATOA;**
- 2. To request the Strategic Director of Communities and Place to advertise the variation of the hackney carriage tariff;**
- 3. To delegate to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place, following consultation with the Chair, authority to consider and respond to any objections received if required.**

15/17 Update on Changes to Taxi Licensing Administration

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the administrative changes proposed to taxi licensing. It was reported that work was continuing to be undertaken on implementing the measures agreed at Council on 23 November 2016.

The Committee were provided with detail from the report on:

1. the proposal to change the scheme of delegation to allow officers to refuse a vehicle licence if it does not satisfy the requirements of the voluntary individual vehicle assessment for modified vehicles;
2. the proposal set out to review the decision to require existing drivers to undertake the basic skills test in Maths, English and ICT as a mandatory requirement;
3. the information provided regarding driver conduct at training sessions;
4. the information provided about disclosure and barring service checks.

Councillor Hezelgrave responded that in terms of the drivers undertaking the basic skills test, he suggested to amend the resolution so that current drivers were not subject to the requirement but that new applicants were still to undertake the course, which would be required at a future date.

Members were advised by the legal officer that should the Committee be minded to remove the basic skills course for existing drivers, the same justification should apply to new and potential drivers.

Officers reported that currently should amendments be made to the requirement there would not be a financial penalty to drivers as there had been no money paid to date, due to said drivers not at the achieved standard.

Members of the Committee were concerned that enough detail was not known of the course specification and it could be the case that a purpose made course may be required as an option.

Councillor Pegg suggested that the amended resolution, as suggested by Councillor Hezelgrave, be further amended to remove the requirement that all current, or prospective driver should obtain the basic skills qualification.

Resolved

- 1. To note the information provided on the implementation of the changes made to the taxi licensing administration system;**
- 2. To approve the proposal set out in the report to change the scheme of delegation to allow officers to refuse a vehicle licence if it does not satisfy the requirements of the voluntary individual vehicle assessment for modified vehicles;**
- 3. That the present requirement that current or prospective drivers should obtain the basic skills qualification be removed;**
- 4. To note the information provided in the report at Paragraphs 4.10 about driver conduct at training sessions and 4.11 about disclosure and barring service checks.**

16/17 Review of Licensing Team Consultation Policy

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on the review of the licensing team consultation policy. It was reported that the policy requires review to ensure that it is up to date and fit for purpose. Members were informed that the revisions were highlighted within the report to indicate the changes made.

Resolved to approve the revised consultation policy as set out in the report.

MINUTES END