

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 7.05 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 27 JULY 2005

Present: Councillor Redfern (in the Chair)
Councillors Dhamrait, Hird, Jackson, Lowe, Rehman, Skelton and Turner

09/05 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P Berry.

10/05 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

11/05 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items, however the Chair raised the following issues:

- Concerns were raised relating to the number of violent attacks on taxi driver.
The Committee agreed to write to the Chief Constable asking that the Police give priority to calls relating to these incidents.
- It was noted that there were a number of road works in the city due to Riverlights and highway maintenance. Members therefore considered it prudent for customers and drivers to be notified of the roadways by text or email.
Agreed that would investigate the possibilities of the above.
- An update was requested following the decision in February 2005 to defer all policy decisions until July 2005 to allow the licensing team to focus on completion of the work plan.
John Tomlinson reported that all but four item of the work plan had been completed, these were:
 1. the revision of the knowledge test
 2. the revision of the enforcement policy
 3. the introduction of the IT monitoring system
 4. the production of guidance on how the new application system works

It was agreed that a written report would be prepared for the next meeting of the Committee.

12/05 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

13/05 Introduction of Regular Medical Checks for Licensed Drivers

A report from the Director of Corporate Services was considered that requested approval of requirements for licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers to undergo regular medical checks.

It was reported that the Council's existing conditions for medical checks required applicants to produce a medical certificate on first application, then at the age of 50 years and every subsequent five years until the age of 65 years.

It was reported that a bench mark meeting had been held that had uncovered that other authorities required medical checks every three or five years. It was therefore proposed that Derby adopt a policy of undergoing medical checks every five years.

It was reported that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade representatives had been consulted on the proposals and were in favour of the change and considered it a good health and safety measure.

It was suggested that a set fee could be negotiated with the Primary Care Trust and the medical form for completion updated.

Resolved

- 1. to approve a requirement for licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers to undergo regular medical checks performed by their own general practitioner every five years**
- 2. to amend the relevant licensing condition to the following**

‘ 1. Before a Licence is granted the applicant must:

a) Complete and submit to the Council an application in the form prescribed by the Council.

b) Satisfy the Council that:

- He/she is a ‘fit and proper’ person to hold such a licence,
- Satisfy the Council that he/she is medically fit to drive a (licensed) vehicle by producing a certificate – provided by the Council and completed and signed by a Medical Practitioner to that effect. (certificate to be paid for by applicant).

2. Medical certificates shall be produced on first application and every 5 years after that to the age of 65 years, then annually and at any reasonable time at the request of the Principal Licensing Officer of the Derby City Council. ‘

MINUTES END