

Time commenced	6:00 pm
Time finished	7:34 pm

## **TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

### **4 JULY 2013**

**Present:** Councillor Jackson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Atwal, Harwood, Keith, J Khan, S Khan, Redfern, Roberts,  
Skelton, Whitby, F Winter and L Winter

#### **01/13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Poulter and Sandhu.

#### **02/13 Late Items to be introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

#### **03/12 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **04/12 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **05/12 Experimental Traffic Regulation Order – The Strand**

The Committee considered a report which stated that in February 2013 following a request from Derbyshire Constabulary, an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) was introduced by the Council's Traffic Management Team. The effect of this was to close off The Strand to all traffic in the early hours of Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Following monitoring of the traffic flow on Victoria Street and Albert Street there were concerns that traffic gaining access to these areas was compromising the objectives of the ETRO which was due to reduce the amount of traffic at the junction of The Strand and The Wardwick.

In March 2013, the ETRO was modified to prevent any access by vehicles to The Wardwick, The Cornmarket and St James's Street via Albert Street and Victoria Street and the times were amended to between midnight and 4.00am. This had resulted in considerably fewer vehicles entering Victoria and Albert Street and had produced a more sterile area for pedestrians. Traffic Management received positive feedback following the implementation of the scheme from Derbyshire

Constabulary, the Street Pastors, the Taxi Marshalls and Door Supervisors. The ETRO would continue in its current format until a decision was made in three months time.

**Resolved to note the report.**

## 06/13 Medical Check for Licensed Drivers

The Committee considered a report which stated that in 2008, a report was considered by the Committee in relation to the removal of the maximum age limits for licensed drivers and at that time there was a decision that the requirement for licensed drivers to be medically examined by a registered General Practitioner (GP) at the doctor's practice where they were registered be changed to a requirement to be medically examined by a registered GP at a doctors practice, preferably where they were registered.

During recent Taxi Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee hearings, it had become apparent that many licensed drivers choose to attend an independent GP and not their own GP, or one at the practice where they were registered. Medical assessment was therefore based solely on the word of the applicant and often with no medical examination being undertaken, and more importantly without access to the licence holders medical records (which would be held by the medical practice at which they were registered).

Without the full medical history of an applicant, there was clearly a subjective judgement being made in order for the questions to be answered and therefore a heightened risk that public safety may be compromised.

**Resolved**

- 1. To require that medical examinations carried out for licensed drivers is always undertaken by a registered GP at their own GP practice in order that an accurate assessment of their medical fitness could be determined.**
- 2. To instruct the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services to undertake a consultation process with licensed drivers on the proposed changes set out in Appendix 3 of the report.**
- 3. To instruct the Director of Environment and Regulatory Services to report back to committee following the outcome of the consultation process, with final recommendations for adoption.**

## 07/13      Comparison of Testing Standards

The Committee considered a report which stated that in 2012 it was agreed by the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee that a piece of work should be undertaken to compare the Council's current testing standards against the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles National Inspection Standards Best Practice Guide produced by the Freight Transport Authority (FTA) and the Public Authority Transport Network (PATN).

The last major revision of the Council's Supplementary Testing manual was carried out in September 2008. The FTA and PATN in conjunction with the Vehicle and Operator Agency (VOSA) revised the Best Practice Guide in August 2012.

### **Resolved**

- 1. To note the report.**
- 2. To instruct the Director of Environment and Regulatory Service to report back to the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee with a proposed amended Supplementary Testing Manual.**

## 08/13      Request for Knowledge Test Exemption

The Committee considered a report which set out a request to be exempt from passing the Council's knowledge test to obtain a Private Hire Drivers' Licence had been received from an applicant. A copy of the request was set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

The applicant was proposing to licence a mini-bus for non metered pre arranged contracts and requested a mini bus be considered in similar terms to a stretch limousine, as he considered his intended work to be the same as that of a stretch limousine driver.

**Resolved to reject the request for exemption.**

## 09/13      Taxi Licensing Administration and Enforcement Activities      Quarter 4

The Committee considered a report which provided information on the licensing service had undertaken during quarter 4 of the 2012/13 financial year.

**Resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END