

Time commenced – 6.37pm
Time finished – 8.11pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
14 OCTOBER 2009

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Hird, Hussain, Jackson, Rawson, Richards,
Skelton, Tuplin and Williams

15/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rawson, Williams and Winter.

16/09 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no items.

17/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

18/09 Confirmation of the minutes of the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 22 July 2009

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19/09 Clarification on the use of Mobile Phones

The Committee considered a report from the Corporate Director of Environmental Services on the Gambling Act Statement of Principals Consultation. It was reported that at a recent Taxi Licensing and Appeals Sub Committee members had requested that the policy on the use of mobile phones by drivers be clarified following a case that had dealt with a complaint from a member of the public.

Members raise concerns as what the legal position was in relation to mobile phone use. It was reported that any driver caught by the police using a mobile phone whilst driving was liable to a fixed penalty fine and 3 penalty points on their licence. If the driver was involved in an incident or accident for which they were responsible and it was found that they were using a mobile phone (including a blue-tooth device) or other equipment such as a satellite navigation

system, radio, etc. they may be charged with driving without due care and attention or dangerous driving.

Members suggested that further clarity be sought on the amount of complaints that had been received by the Licensing Section and that a further report be brought back to the next scheduled Committee before a consultation with the hackney carriage and private hire trade.

Resolved to note the report and receive a further report at the next scheduled Committee.

19/09 Taxi Licensing and Enforcement Activities 2009/10 Quarter 1 and 2

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on Taxi Licensing and Enforcement Activities 2009/10 Quarter 1 and 2. The statistics for taxi licensing and associated licensing enforcement activities for quarter one and two of 2009/10 were attached to the report.

Members noted that from the statistics based on the age of the vehicles that were inspected for enforcement activities it seemed to indicate that it was generally older vehicles that there being targeted. It was reported that in future to re-address the balance, further information would be provided on the total number of the fleet of vehicles to address members concerns.

Members suggested that this information be collated as part of the wider review, still to be undertaken on the vehicle age policy.

Resolved to note the contents of the report.

20/09 Advertising on Licensed Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on Advertising on Licensed Vehicles. It was reported that at a recent trade meeting the Licensing Authority had received a request to consider extending the advertising on the outside of Hackney Carriage vehicles and to have advertising on the outside of Private Hire Vehicles.

Members raised concerns that any type of advertising would reduce the standard of vehicles. The Hackney Carriage vehicles were yellow in colour following advice from the Derbyshire Association for the Blind and any changes detracting from this could cause safety issues for passengers. It was also noted that any type of advertising on Private Hire vehicles would also cause safety hazards for passengers.

Resolved:

- 1. to not allow extending external advertising on Hackney Carriage vehicles; and**
- 2. to not allow external advertising on Private Hire vehicles.**

MINUTES END