

ITEM 4

Time commenced – 7.25pm

Time finished – 8.20pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 08 DECEMBER 2010

Present: Councillor Hird (Chair)
Councillors Atwal, Berry, Chera, Harwood, Leeming, and Skelton

11/10 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Barker, Jackson, Redfern, S Khan and F Winter.

12/10 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no items.

13/10 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

14/10 Confirmation of the minutes of the Taxi Licensing Appeals Committee held on Wednesday 13 October 2010

The minutes of the meetings held on 13 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

15/10 Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2011-12

The Committee considered a report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods on the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and the other charges for 2011-12. This was an annual review of the fees and charges for licensing private hire and hackney carriage vehicles. The budget for taxi licensing functions is self-financing and non-profit making.

Councillor Harwood asked what would happen if there was a shortfall. The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing, Mike Kay, stated that the budget had reserves to cover this and if there was a surplus this would be transferred back into the reserves.

Councillor Harwood raised concern that the costs were not entirely representative of all the work that goes into the taxi licensing process such as the time spent at appeals. He suggested that there should be a fee which would dissuade frivolous appeals. Councillor Atwal asked if that is reasonable if taxi drivers already pay a fee for their licence. The Head of Legal Services – General, Olu Idowu, stated that introducing a fee for appeals for taxi licensing would have implications to every other appeal system.

Councillor Harwood asked how the amounts for the two charges had been set. These were changing the dates of knowledge tests (£5) and changing vehicle registration details (£20). He proposed that these were too low and should be increased to £10 and £40 respectively. The Head of Legal Services – General stated that the Council can only charge to recoup its costs. The Head of Environmental Health & Licensing stated that he had asked officers for the cost to the authority of carrying out these functions and these are the fees they had suggested.

It was moved by Councillor Harwood, and seconded, that the fees relating to changing the dates of knowledge tests and changing vehicle registration details in appendix 4 of the report be amended to £10 and £40 respectively.

The amendment was put to the meeting and lost.

Resolved:

- A. To approve, subject to the consideration of representations, the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2011/12.**
- B. To request the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods to advertise the proposed variation of fees.**
- C. To authorise the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods, in consultation with the Chair of Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee, to consider any representations received within the required period and take appropriate action if required.**
- D. To approve the new licence fees to become effective from 4 April 2011 subject to the consideration of any representations received during the required period.**

16/10 Cabbie of the Year Update

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods providing an update on the Cabbie of the Year award. Members were asked to volunteer to sit on a cross party working group to consider nominees for the award and make recommendations to the Chair.

Resolved:

- A. To agree that Councillors Harwood, Leeming, Skelton and Atwal form the Cross Party Working Group to consider nominations for Cabbie of the Year 2011 and make recommendations to the Chair.**
- B. To request officers to invite the Labour Group to propose their two representatives to sit on the cross party working group.**
- C. To agree that the Service Director of Environment and Regulatory Services, in consultation with the Chair, receives the recommendations from the Cross Party Working Group and decides who will receive the award Cabbie of the Year 2011.**

MINUTES END