

Item 4

Time Commenced: 6:00pm
Time Finished: - 7.20pm

LICENSING COMMITTEE 17 January 2019

Present: Councillor Barker (Chair)
Councillors Bettany, Cooper, Froggatt, A Holmes, Hussain, Keith, S Khan,
Peatfield, P Pegg, Potter, Sandhu, Skelton and Smale

In Attendance: Olu Idowu – Head of Legal Services
Richard Antcliff – Director of Public Protection and Streetpride
Mike Kay – Head of Environmental Health and Licensing
Sandra Mansell – Team Leader – Licensing

23/18 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Smale and Jackson

24/18 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

25/18 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor P Pegg requested a Point of Clarification of the Chair. The Chair was asked if he should step down as Chair of the Committee for the duration of the meeting. Councillor P Pegg stated that an interview, with Cllr Barker, had been shown on ITV and Councillor Pegg felt that Councillor Barker gave the impression that he had a pre-determined view on the Taxi and Private Hire Vehicles Strategy, which raised concerns about his impartiality to chair the Committee debate on the matter.

The Chair denied this allegation and stressed that in giving the interview he made it clear that no decision had been made and that the Strategy was being brought before the Committee with a recommendation to agree to go to consultation and therefore he was satisfied that he gave no indication that the decision has been pre-determined.

Legal opinion was sought on this matter. The Head of Legal Services started with a caveat that he had not seen the interview and would need to do so in order to give a categorical view. However, based on the extensive exchanges between the Chair and

members that he had heard, he saw no reason why the Chair should step down. He referred to the Localism Act and the distinction it makes between predisposition and predetermination, the former being permissible and the latter not.

Councillor Peatfield requested that it be formally recorded that she was not happy with the meeting to proceed with Councillor Barker as Chair, since he held the casting vote as, in her opinion, he had a pre-determined view.

26/18 Minutes of the Meetings held on 8 November 2018

The minutes of the meetings held on 8 November 2018 were confirmed as a correct record.

27/18 Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2019/20

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride providing them with information on the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences along with other charges for 2019/20. The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing presented the report and confirmed that the hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are reviewed regularly. It was also acknowledged that separate accounts must be kept for each type of licence issued.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2019/20.**
- 2. request the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride advertise the proposed variation of fees.**
- 3. delegate to the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride authority to consider any representations received within the required period and to take appropriate action if required to address such representations.**
- 4. approve the new licence fees and charges to become effective from 1 April 2019, subject to there not being any representations received during the required period, or where any such representations have been withdrawn.**

28/18 Proposed Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles Strategy 2020

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride providing information on the proposed Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles Strategy 2020. This proposed strategy had been produced to help support the Council in meeting the air quality requirements as laid down by Central Government and age of

vehicles as required by the Police service. The Chair acknowledged that officers had been working on this strategy for over 18 months.

It was stressed that this report was merely seeking approval to go out to consultation with the Strategy, that no decisions had been made, and that all views would be considered. Members urged the trade to respond to the consultation and discussion was held as to how the consultation could be accessed (online and paper).

It was decided that the consultation should be run for 90 days and the results would be considered at the first Licensing Committee possible once the consultation period had ended and the responses had been considered.

Resolved to:

- 1. note the proposed Taxi & Private Hire Vehicles Strategy 2020**
- 2. request the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride arrange a 90 day consultation exercise on the proposed strategy.**
- 3. request the Service Director of Public Protection and Streetpride consider all comments received during the consultation exercise**
- 4. arrange a further report to Committee setting out a proposed final strategy for approval**

29/18 Officer Delegation to Approve Types of Hackney Carriage Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride seeking Committee approval to delegate the decision to approve types of Hackney Carriage Vehicles to the relevant Director. The approval of types of vehicles, to be used as Hackney carriages historically came to Licensing Committee for approval, following inspection and subsequent report from officers, to ascertain compliance with the Council's Specifications for Hackney Vehicles. It was felt that if this decision could be delegated to officers it would speed up the decision making process considerably.

Resolved to delegate the decision to authorise the types of vehicles approved to be licensed as hackney carriages within the Council's administrative boundary to the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride.

MINUTES END