

Time commenced – 6.24pm
Time finished – 7.10pm

**TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
10 FEBRUARY 2010**

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Berry, Hird, Hussain, Leeming, Poulter,
Rawson, Skelton, Tuplin and Winter

29/09 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson and Williams.

30/09 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no items.

31/09 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

**32/09 Confirmation of the minutes of the Taxi Licensing
and Appeals Committee held on 16 December
2009**

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 December 2009 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the addition of Councillor Winter's apologies.

33/09 Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2010/2011

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2010/2011. The hackney carriage and private hire licensing fees and charges are reviewed annually. These licensing functions are self-financing and non-profit making. The aim is to set the fees and charges at a level to recover the total costs incurred in providing the service. If a trading surplus occurs in any financial year, this would be transferred into a taxi licensing holding account which could be used to either offset a shortfall in fees and charges in the following financial year or fund specific development projects within the taxi licensing team.

Members were supportive of the freeze on the fees and charges, due to the still very difficult economic climate. It was noted that enforcement should not be

reduced to compensate this. The officer reported that there had been requests from the trade to carry out more enforcement work in addition to the exercises currently run with VOSA and the Police. Members requested that further detail be provided at the next meeting with details of the likely annual cost of enforcement.

Concern was raised that the service had been running at a loss for the last three years. It was reported by officers that previous years had received more applications than anticipated and that the difference this year would come from the reserve budget. It was noted that the budget proposals ~~is scheme~~ had been approved ~~cleared~~ by the Council's ~~Audit~~ Finance team.

The Committee agreed that as there were many drivers that went above and beyond their duties required of them and to show them the Committees appreciation it would be a nice gesture to this year run a competition for the "Cabbie of the Year". It was decided that a further report be provided to the next meeting of the Committee to provide Members with further detail of the costings.

Resolved

- 1. To approve, subject to the consideration of objections/representations, the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2010/11;**
- 2. To request the Corporate Director of Environmental Services to advertise the proposed variation of fees;**
- 3. To receive a further report with detailed costings of the planned enforcement works and "Cabbie of the Year" competition.**

MINUTES END