

ITEM 11

Recommendation: To note the minutes and take into account in consideration of Item 12 on the agenda

25/16 Outcome of the Consultation on Changes to Taxi Licensing Administration and Decision Making

The Committee received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place asking them to consider the details of the draft consultation scheme as set out in the report and make appropriate comments for consideration by the Cabinet Member.

A further amended version of appendix 4 – Licensing Consultation – data tables – October 2016 had been circulated to members and the Head of Environmental Health and Licensing apologised for the previously issued document being incorrect and for an inconvenience caused as a result of this.

The Committee were advised that any comments and recommendations made would be passed to the Cabinet Member and considered at Full Council on 23 November 2016.

Discussions were held on the proposed scheme of delegation and the proposed move to having officer panels rather than member panels for Taxi Licensing Committees and concerns were raised over how complaints and suspension of licenses would be dealt with. Concerns were also raised over proposed administration functions and clarity was given that it was only renewal of licenses that could be completed online.

A proposal was made to recommend to ask the Cabinet Member and Director to come up with a proposal that recommends decisions that are outside of the penalty points policy are referred to a Licensing Member Panel for consideration. This was agreed by the Licensing Committee.

Discussions were also held on CCTVs being installed in taxis, driver knowledge tests, how to deal with incomplete applications and how to keep the industry in Derby. The Service Director for Communities, Environmental and Regulatory Services confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Secretary of State highlighting loop holes which allow drivers from outside of area to trade within other authorities.

It was acknowledged that the taxi drivers' of Derby City provide a first class service and were indeed ambassadors of the City. The Committee expressed the need to work in consultation with them in order to adopt a fair and just system.

It was felt that the Government should have issued clear guidance on Taxi Licensing and a proposal was made to make a representation to the relevant Minister asking them to take this forward. The Committee agreed this recommendation.

Resolved to:

- 1. Consider the details of the results of the consultation exercise set out in the report**
- 2. to ask the Cabinet Member and Director to come up with a proposal that recommends decisions that are outside the remit of the penalty points policy are referred to a licensing sub-committee member panel for consideration.**
- 3. Representations should be made to the relevant ministers calling for urgent clear guidance on taxi licensing, following on from the Casey recommendations**