

Minutes of Licensing Committee

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 13 June 2017, starting at 6.30pm
Present: Councillor J Alcock (Chairman)

Councillors:

I Brown	S Hirst
S Brunskill	J Holgate
P Elms	A Knox
G Geldard	G Scott
R Hargreaves	J White
S Hind	

In attendance: Head of Legal and Democratic Services and Solicitor.

73 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M Fenton, L Graves and R Swarbrick.

74 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Committee received the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee meetings held on 19 April 2017 and 15 May 2017.

75 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest.

76 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

77 INTRODUCTION OF DBS CHECKS FOR PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for the introduction of DBS checks for private hire operators. These checks were already a requirement for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, and Committee had previously authorised consultation for the introduction of checks for Private Hire Operators, who have contact with customers, hold personal details, and have control of vehicles attending at home addresses or carrying children and vulnerable adults.

One response had been received to the consultation, fully supporting the proposal.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. approve the introduction of DBS checks for Private Hire Operators from 1 July 2017; and
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make any necessary consequential amendments to the Council's policies and/or procedures.

78 REVIEW OF HACKNEY FARES

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's views as to whether there should be a review of Hackney Carriage fares, which had not been reviewed since 2009. There had not been any request for a review by licence holders, which may reflect acceptance of the current levels or that, in reality, the Hackney Carriage driver would agree a fare in advance which was at a lower rate than approved and shown on the meter.

Members were advised that a review would involve consultation with licence holders and advertisement of any proposed change.

RESOLVED: That Committee authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to consult licence holders and other relevant persons upon the proposal to review fares if necessary.

79 REQUIREMENT FOR ELAP SEATS IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's view of the requirement for ELAP seats in Hackney Carriages. This followed consultation with disability groups on the request by a licence holder for removal of the requirement for his vehicle permanently to be fitted with an ELAP seat and for introduction of a requirement that all Hackney Carriages should carry a cheaper swivel seat which would not be installed permanently in the vehicle.

No written response had been received to the consultation, but Ribble Valley Opening Doors had verbally requested retention of the requirement for ELAP seats and for encouragement of provision of swivel seats in all other licensed vehicles to assist elderly people.

RESOLVED: That Committee retain the requirement for ELAP seats where currently required in Hackney Carriages.

80 PROPOSED TAXI STANDS

The Chief Executive submitted a report seeking Committee's approval for the creation of two Hackney Carriage stands. These would be located on Station Road, Clitheroe, which would operate 24 hours per day and in the Market Place, Clitheroe, operative from 10pm to 2am.

Committee had previously resolved that a further stand should be approved in a loading bay to be created on Accrington Road, Whalley, but this could not yet be authorised as the Traffic Order for Whalley had yet to be implemented.

RESOLVED: That Committee

1. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to seek formal consent from Lancashire County Council for the making of the Order as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
2. authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (if and when consent is received from Lancashire County Council) to take all steps required to give formal notice of the proposed Order.

81 TAXI ENFORCEMENT OPERATION

The Chief Executive reported on the results of an inspection of licensed Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles carried out on 21 April 2017 in conjunction with the Police and the Vehicle and Operators Services Agency. Of 10 vehicles tested, 7 were of the required standard, 2 were served with delayed prohibition notices requiring work to be carried out within 7 days and 1 vehicle, which had a tyre with tread below the legal limit, was issued with a prohibition notice and taken off the road with immediate effect. The stipulated work for all 3 vehicles was carried out as required.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

82 NOTES OF SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP DATED 20 APRIL 2017

Committee received the minutes from the meeting of the Ribble Valley Safety Advisory Group dated 20 April 2017.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact Diane Rice (414418).