

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 16 October 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Jarvis, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Aspinall (substitute for Councillor Bowie), Mrs Foster, Fry, Mrs Nicholson, Rennie and Singh.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Bowie.

Also in attendance: Sharon Day (Legal Officer), Mark Small (Licensing Officer) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.30 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

64. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

The committee agreed to appoint Councillor Mrs Nicholson as Vice Chair for this particular meeting.

65. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Jarvis declared a personal interest part way through the meeting because he knew the representative for NW.

66. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

67. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Councillor Rennie expressed his concern regarding the effect the Deregulation Bill could have on the taxi trade. Following a discussion, the Licensing Officer advised the Committee that Clause 10, which proposed to deregulate taxis, was dropped from the Deregulation Bill on 14 October 2014.

68. APPEAL CASES

The committee was advised that there had been one new appeal case since the last meeting where the committee's decision had been upheld by the court.

69. **EXEMPT INFORMATION**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 7 of Part I Schedule 12a of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

70. **CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES (E3 AND E7)**

Agreed that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

71. **APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - NW (E3 AND E7)**

The committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from NW and his representative;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said by NW into consideration.

The committee agreed to grant NW's application for a private hire driver's licence subject to him completing the VRQ driver qualification in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire or equivalent, within 12 months of receiving his licence.

(Please note: there is a confidential part to this minute)

(Councillor Jarvis declared a personal interest in respect of this item)

72. **REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - AP (E3 AND E7)**

The committee agreed to adjourn this case to the next committee hearing as AP did not attend. A letter is to be sent to AP advising him that the matter will be dealt with at the next committee and if he fails to attend the matter will be dealt with in his absence.

73. **REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - DPT (E3 AND E7)**

DPT failed to attend and due to the serious nature of the matters detailed in the report the committee initially agreed to hear the matter in DPT's absence.

However, after discussing the issues further members agreed to adjourn the matter until the next committee date in order for DPT to answer their questions.

A letter is to be sent to DPT advising him of the adjournment, that committee had originally been minded to deal with the matter in his absence due to its serious nature, that he is required to attend the next committee to answer members' questions, that attendance at committee will be his opportunity to explain the issues raised in the report, and that if he

does not attend the matter will be dealt with in his absence meaning that members will only be able to take account of the information provided in the report.