

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 30 August 2018

PRESENT:

Councillor Mavin, in the Chair.

Councillor Singh, Vice Chair.

Councillors Mrs Bridgeman, Corvid, Jordan, Mrs Pengelly and Rennie.

Also in attendance: Sharon Day (Lawyer), Steve Forshaw (Senior Enforcement Officer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 2.25 pm.

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.

51. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in accordance with the code of conduct.

52. **Minutes**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2018.

53. **Chair's Urgent Business**

Under this item, Councillor Rennie requested an update from Steve Forshaw (Taxi Enforcement Officer) regarding future plans to increase safeguarding in the taxi industry. Members were advised that the National Anti-Fraud Network was developing a system whereby licensed drivers, both private and hackney carriage, would be included on a national register and details surrounding revocations or suspensions attributed to a driver would be made available on request; Plymouth City Council was due to appoint a specific officer for this role.

Mr Wildman, who was in attendance to support a taxi driver whose review was due to be discussed, requested the opportunity to raise a private issue with Members. It was agreed that the committee would adjourn to allow Mr Wildman opportunity to speak to the committee's legal officer. Members were advised that the legal officer advised Mr Wildman to raise his concerns, discussed with her, to the Licensing Service Manager.

54. **Appeal Cases**

There had been no appeal cases processed since the previous Taxi Licensing Committee.

55. **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 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

56. **Confidential Minutes -**

Agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2018.

Order of Business

With the permission of the Chair, the order of business was amended, as set out below in the minutes

57. **Review Status of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver Licence - MD**

The Committee:

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from Mr Wildman on behalf of MD;
- (c) heard from MD;

The committee considered that MD's actions had fallen so far short of that which was expected of a professional driver that it would be inappropriate of them not to take action or issue a warning. The committee agreed that it was proportionate, in light of the above and in consideration of its licensing objective of vehicle safety, comfort and access and prevention of crime and disorder and protection of consumers, to suspend MD's Hackney Carriage Driver's licence for a period of three days under section 19(1)(b) of the Plymouth City Council Act 1975.

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

58. **Review Status of Hackney Carriage Driver Licence - DA**

The Committee:

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from the Licensing Officer that DA had not attended committee and that the Licensing Officer had made several attempts to contact him today:

Having considered the matters contained within the report, the committee agreed that it does not consider DA to be a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's licence. Therefore, in order to protect the safety of the public, the licence is revoked under section 19(1)(b) of the Plymouth City Council Act 1975. In

reaching this decision the Council has taken into account the licensing objectives contained within its policy of safety and health of drivers and the public, prevention of crime and disorder and protection of consumers and protection of children and other vulnerable persons from harm.

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