

Decision Summary

Committee: Licensing and Safety Committee
Date: 16 September 2010
Committee Clerk: David Gordon
Tel: 01484 221000

Chair

Cllr Christine Iredale

Councillors Attended

Jim Dodds, Derek John Hardcastle, Mumtaz Hussain, Adrian Murphy, Peter O'Neill, Rochelle Louise Parchment, Linda Mary Wilkinson, Anthony Owen Woodhead

Apologies

Cllrs Ahmed, Cook, S Hall, Harris, Ward and Yates

1. Membership of the committee

This is where Councillors who are attending as substitutes will say for whom they are attending.

Decision: There were no changes in membership.

2. Minutes of previous meeting

To approve the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 April and 26 May 2010

Decision: Approved as a correct record.

3. Interests

The Councillors will be asked to say if there are any items on the Agenda about which they might have a personal interest which prevents them from taking part in the discussions. They could be financial or some other reason. A form is attached for completion by Councillors if they have an interest in any of the items to be discussed at the meeting. Please complete this form and return it to the Committee Officer at the end of the meeting.

Decision: No interests were declared.

4. Admission of the public

Most debates take place in public. This only changes when there is a need to consider certain issues, for instance, commercially sensitive information or details concerning an individual. You will be told at this point whether there are any items on the Agenda which are to be discussed in private.

Decision: Agreed that all the items on the Agenda be taken in public session. Prior to the meeting, the Chair had agreed that an Urgent Item be considered in respect of Proposals for Increases in Licensing Fees, on the grounds that it was proposed to introduce the new fees from 1 November 2010, subject to no objections being received.

5. Deputations / Petitions

The Committee will receive any petitions and hear any deputations from members of the public.

A deputation is where up to five people can attend the meeting and make a presentation on some particular issue of concern. A member of the public can also hand in a petition at the meeting but that petition should relate to something on which the body has powers and responsibilities.

Decision: No deputations/petitions were received.

6. Quantity Restrictions of Hackney Carriage Licences.

To determine whether quantity restrictions should continue to be imposed on Hackney Carriage Licences.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Decision: (1) That having regard to the conclusions of the Unmet Demand Survey, the number of Hackney Carriage Licences remain at 249 for the whole of the district, 55 of which be wheelchair accessible vehicles.

(2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee which provide information on how energy efficient the Hackney Carriage vehicles are, i.e. in respect of CO2 emissions.

7. Revised Licensing Policy Statement

To consider the revised Licensing Policy Statement.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

8. Penalty Point system for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

To determine whether the implementation of a Penalty Point system for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles should be progressed.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Decision: (1) That consideration of the Penalty Points system be deferred and that the Working Party be reconvened to reconsider the scheme and major issues such as Insurance, and report back thereon to a meeting of the Committee which be arranged to take place at the end of November.

(2) That the report also contain, for the information of the Committee, a list of other Authorities which operate a Penalty Points System.

9. Control of Sexual Entertainment Venues

To consider options in respect of sexual entertainment venues.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Decision: That option 6.1 be approved and that the Council resolves that Schedule 3 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 (as amended) will apply to the Council's area as soon as practicable on a date to be decided by the Assistant Director of Public Protection.

10. Tinted Glass on Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire Vehicles

To consider a request from representatives of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Trades to reconsider the current policy on the level of tint allowed in licensed vehicle windows.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Decision: That Option 3 be approved and that the existing policy be amended to allow a darker level of tint to be used in licensed vehicle windows and that the darker tint level be no lower than 21%.

11. Proposals for increases in Licensing Taxis

To seek approval for increases in Licensing Fees.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Decision: (1) That the Cabinet be recommended to approve a 3% increase in the Licensing Fees from 1 November 2010, subject to no objections being received from the Taxi Trade.

(2) That the Cabinet be also recommended to authorise that any objections received be considered and determined by the Regulatory Panel.

12. Taxi drivers Training Course

To consider.

Decision: It was agreed that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee, to take place at the end of November, on the Taxi Drivers Training Course.