

LSC4

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KIRKLEES COUNCIL

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Tuesday 13 April 2010

Present: Councillor Christine Iredale in the Chair
Councillors Hardcastle, Harris, Murphy, O'Neill, Rogers, Wilkinson and Yates

Apologies: Councillors Brice, Cook, Hall, M Hussain and Parchment

1 Membership of the Committee

There were no changes in membership.

2 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 1 March 2010 were approved as a correct record.

3 Interests

No interests were declared.

4 Admission of the Public

The Committee considered the question of the exclusion of the public and determined that Item 8 on the Agenda be taken in private session.

5 Deputations/Petitions

No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Proposed Adoption of a Revised and Updated Councillors Protocol for Licensing Committees

The Committee considered a draft Licensing Protocol which set out principles to guide Members and Officers in determining Licensing Applications and making other decisions within the Terms of Reference of the Committee. The report emphasised the need for decisions to be made fairly, openly, impartially and for justifiable licensing reasons.

The Protocol had previously been considered by the Standards Committee on 9 March 2010 and referred to this Committee for further consideration. The Standards Committee had also requested that, after a twelve month period, a further report be submitted to provide feedback on how the Protocols were operating in practice.

RESOLVED - That the Protocol be approved and referred to the Corporate Governance and Audit Committee for further consideration.

7 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED - That acting under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as specifically stated in the undermentioned Minute.

8 Taxi Trade - Request to meet the Committee

(Exempt information relating to personal information in respect of an applicant for a Licence regarding any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. It is considered that it would not be in the public interest to disclose the information contained in this report as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information and provides greater openness in the Council's decision making)

Pursuant to Minute 15 of the previous meeting of the Committee held on 13 April 2010, the Committee met representatives of the Taxi Trade and responded to the following issues and concerns raised by the representatives of the Taxi Trade:-

- (a) Badge renewals - Extension from current twelve months.
- (b) Taxi MOTs - Cost implications for any six monthly tests.
- (c) New rear plates.
- (d) Playing of music in taxis.
- (e) Penalty points system for vehicles.
- (f) Tinted windows in vehicles.
- (g) Funding support from the Council for the Taxi Associations.
- (h) Service costs.
- (i) Enforcement matters.
- (j) Suspension of Licences.

RESOLVED -

(1) That the issues and concerns raised by the representatives of the Taxi Trade be noted.

(2) That reports on the following matters be submitted to future meetings of this Committee:-

- (a) Options in respect of badge renewals being every three years.
- (b) Feedback report after twelve months on the introduction of the new rear plates and that Officers also consider the feasibility of using a replacement sticker to change the expiry date on the plate every twelve months.
- (c) Options available from the respective manufacturers on the types of tinted windows available for vehicles.