

Decision Summary

Committee: Licensing and Safety Committee
Date: 18 March 2011
Committee Clerk: David Gordon
Tel: 01484 221000

Chair

Councillor Christine Iredale

Councillors Attended

Masood Ahmed, John Colin Cook, Jim Dodds, Steve Hall, Derek John Hardcastle, Cath Harris, Adrian Murphy, Rochelle Louise Parchment, Christine Stanfield, Elaine Ward, Derrick Yates

Apologies

Councillors Mumtaz Hussain, O'Neill, Wilkinson and Woodhead

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 16 September 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 Proposed Changes to Licensing Conditions for Horse Riding Establishments in Kirklees.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Committee received and considered an email from Mr Akooji Badat from the Taxi Trade which contained comments on Agenda Items 7 to 13 respectively.

The Committee also agreed to consider correspondence from the Taxi Trade in respect of Agenda Items 8, 11 and 12.

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. Public question time

The Committee will hear any questions from the general public.

Decision: No questions were asked.

7. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Training Course

To consider sanctions available to the Regulatory Panel.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: That the contents of the newly designed Training Course be approved and that any Licensed Driver, referred to the Training Course, failing to attend be brought before the Regulatory Panel.

8. Licensing Department - Public Counter Services

To consider proposals to reduce counter services opening hours in Huddersfield.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: (1) That the report be approved and that accordingly, the Huddersfield Counter Service Office be closed to the public on Tuesday and Thursday, when the Dewsbury Counter Service Office is open.

(2) That, in order to reduce the impact of (1) above, the opening hours of the Huddersfield Office be extended to 4.30pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

9. Equality Act 2010 - Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

To consider whether the Authority should maintain a list of Designated Vehicles for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: (1) That the report be approved and that the Authority maintain a list of designated vehicles for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010.

(2) That the Licensing Manager be given delegated authority to determine exemptions to drivers on medical grounds from the duties imposed by the Equality Act 2010.

10. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver Medicals

To consider a proposal that the Council adopt Government Standards in respect of Medicals for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: That the report be approved and that the Council adopt the Government Standards in respect of Medicals for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers.

11. Driver Badge Renewals

To determine whether the Authority should offer Options of 1, 2 and 3 year renewals for Taxi Driver Licences.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: That Taxi Driver Badge Renewals remain on the current one year renewal basis.

12. Bradford Road/Hick Lane, Batley - Hackney Carriage Rank

To determine whether the Rank should continue or not.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 56860

Wards Affected: All

Decision: That the Rank at Bradford Road/Hick Lane, Batley be removed.

13. Penalty Points System for Taxis and Private Hire Vehicles

To consider whether to progress the implementation of a Penalty Points Scheme for Taxis, Private Hire Vehicles and Operators.

Contact: Catherine Walter 01484 456860

Wards Affected: All

Decision:

- (1) That approval be given to introduce a Penalty Points Scheme for Taxis, Private Hire Vehicles and Operators, together with a Rewards Scheme.
- (2) That a Working Group be established to take the initiative forward, with a view to introduce a Penalty Points Scheme and Rewards Scheme by 1 January 2012.
- (3) That the Members of the Working Group be Councillors Rochelle Parchment, Adrian Murphy and Steve Hall and that representatives from the Taxi Trade be invited to attend meetings of the Working Group.

14. Proposed Changes to Licensing Conditions for Horse Riding Establishments Licensed under the Riding Establishments Acts 1964 and 1970

To seek approval to update standard licensing conditions for horse riding establishments in Kirklees.

(This Item was considered after Item 6)

Contact: Kim Walker 01484 226454

Wards Affected: All

Decision: That the proposed amendments to Conditions 1 and 20 and the new Condition 24 as detailed in Appendix 4 to the submitted report be approved.

15. Councillor Derrick Yates

The Committee noted that Councillor Yates was attending his last meeting of the Committee as he was not standing at the Local Elections on 5 May 2011.

The Committee thanked Councillor Yates for his valued contributions and commitment to the work of the Committee and extended to him very best wishes for the future.