

Licensing and Public Safety Committee

Wednesday, 14 December 2011

Present: Councillor Stella Walsh (Chair), Councillor Keith Iddon (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Terry Brown, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Hasina Khan, Paul Leadbetter, Marion Lowe, Mick Muncaster, Steve Murfitt, Beverley Murray, Pauline Phipps, Alan Platt, Debra Platt, Dave Rogerson, Ralph Snape and John Walker

Also in attendance: Simon Clark (Head of Environment), Alex Jackson (Senior Lawyer) and Dianne Scambler (Democratic and Member Services Officer)

11.LPS.26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

11.LPS.27 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No declarations of any interest were made.

11.LPS.28 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Licensing and Public Safety Committee meeting were held on 14 September 2011 be held as a correct record for signing by the Chair.

11.LPS.29 MINUTES OF THE GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE'S

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the General Licensing Sub-Committee's held on 12 October, 25 October, 26 October and 9 November 2011 be confirmed as a correct record for signing by the respective Chair.

11.LPS.30 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING ACT 2003 SUB COMMITTEE'S

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Licensing Act 2003 Sub-Committee meetings held on 21 September, 28 September and 27 October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record for signing by the respective Chair.

11.LPS.31 UPDATE ON TAXI DRIVER MATTER

Members were updated by the Vice Chair of the Committee on matters relating to a former Chorley Council licensed taxi driver that had recently been highlighted in the local papers.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

11.LPS.32 PROPOSED CHANGES TO MEDICAL EXAMINATION PROCEDURE

The Director of People and Places submitted a report that sought approval for the proposed changes to the medical examination procedure for taxi and private hire drivers.

A report had been submitted to the last meeting of the Committee where it had been resolved that the implementation of the revised medical examination procedure be deferred, to allow the Licensing Liaison Panel to make comments before being brought back to this Committee for approval.

This had now taken place and the views and comments of the Panel had been taken into consideration.

Taxi and private drivers are required to undertake a medical examination to demonstrate that they are fit to drive. The current medical examination form requires the applicant to present themselves to a general medical practitioner (GP) for an assessment of their fitness to drive under DVLA Group 2 standards. Recent evidence indicated that the majority of GP's may not be experienced or conversant with these complex standards.

The Council's current examination form had been revised by a medical professional competent with Group 2 standards.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the proposed changes to the medical examination procedure relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Driver Licences be approved.**
- 2. That the Option 1 (cost of medical referral is absorbed with the taxi regime budget) be approved.**

11.LPS.33 PROPOSED CHANGE TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Members received a report of the Director of People and Places bringing to their attention a request from the Chorley Hackney Carriage Drivers for a change in hackney carriage fares which amounted to a slight decrease in the fares charged for Hackney Carriage journeys.

The fares had been increased by the Committee in June 2011 following a request by the Hackney Carriage trade representative body BBBHA. The effect of the increase agreed had an unintended consequence on the pricing fares at the taxi meter in that charges for part mile journeys had resulted in small change being required. In addition it had been reported that the meter calibration using the current fare structure posed difficulties.

Therefore the hackney carriage trade representatives had consulted with a taxi meter calibration company and determined the proposed fare structure in the report as providing a satisfactory solution.

RESOLVED – That the proposed change in Hackney Carriage fares be agreed, subject to the necessary statutory Notice being advertised and no objections being received.

Should no objections be received the new fares will be implemented on 9 January 2012.

11.LPS.34 CHRISTMAS WISHES

The Chair wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Chair