

LICENSING COMMITTEE

13th June 2017

Present – Councillors Heseltine, Ireton, Jaquin, Madeley, Moorby, Myers and Thompson.

Officers – Solicitor, Licensing Manager and Committee Administrator.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Baxandall, Mulligan, Solloway.

Start: 6.30pm

Finish: 8:15pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 21st March 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Minutes for Report

LIC.193

REVISION OF TAXI LICENSING POLICY

The Licensing Manager submitted a report seeking Members' approval to formally consult on a proposed taxi licensing policy and an adequate timeframe for the duration of the consultation.

Whilst the Council had a number of policies and conditions relating to taxi licensing, last reviewed in November 2012, these were not contained in one formal document. The revised policies would reflect legislative changes and ensure that as a Licensing Authority, Craven could be confident that, along with improved partnership working with agencies such as the Police and Safeguarding, the introduction of strengthened conditions and policies were robust and fit for purpose.

The Licensing Manager stated that, during the consultation process, she wanted to engage with as many people as possible, including the trade, relevant agencies and organisations and other interested parties including members of the public.

The main changes highlighted in the report were:

- More robust policy in relation to the relevance of previous convictions and other relevant information;
- Update Private Hire Drivers' conditions;
- Update Hackney Carriage Drivers' Code of Conduct;
- A new Code of Conduct when working with vulnerable passengers;
- To seek a driver dress code;
- Medicals to be brought into line with DVLA;
- DBS checks to be brought into line with expiry of the licence rather than part way through a licence;
- Relevant qualifications to be evidenced;
- CSE Awareness Training;
- Introduce specifications to help with compliance when purchasing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles;
- Introduce a tougher requirement for tyres such as tyre depth;
- Introduce a technical specification for cameras in taxis; and
- Points based enforcement scheme.

Members were asked to comment and discuss the draft policy and after a lengthy debate, it was

Resolved – (1) That, the Licensing Manager is instructed to formally consult on the draft Taxi Licensing Policy.

(2) That, the timeframe, as set out in report now submitted, is approved and that a further report is brought back to this Committee in order to consider any representations received and whether amendments should be made to the policy in light of any representations received.

LIC.194 **TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OFFICER SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

The Licensing Solicitor submitted a report asking Members to consider the Terms of Reference for the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee and make associated amendments to the Officer Scheme of Delegation.

The current Scheme of Delegation made it difficult for the Licensing Authority to act quickly when information was received that called into question whether a driver remained to be 'fit and proper'. To speed up the process, the report suggested that delegated authority was given to the Chief Executive to refuse such applications with a corresponding right of appeal to the Licensing and Appeals Sub-Committee. This would not affect the statutory right to further appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

In addition, in order to assist officers in setting up Sub Committees promptly and efficiently, it was proposed that the membership of a particular Sub Committee was selected from Members of the Licensing Committee in rolling alphabetical order of surname. This should result in the Sub Committees being shared equally between Members.

The Chairman asked Members for their views and after a discussion it was

Resolved – (1) That, the recommendation to amend the officer Scheme of Delegation to grant authority to the Chief Executive to authorise suspension and revocation of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers, Vehicles and Operators licences is not approved.

(2) That, the recommendation to amend the Licensing and Appeals Sub Committee Terms of Reference to hear informal appeals against decisions to refuse applications, suspend or revoke licences is not approved.

(3) That, the introduction of a system of appointment to a Licensing and Appeals Sub Committee by way of a rolling alphabetical list of Members of the Licensing Committee is not approved.

Chairman.