

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Meeting held in the Committee Room, Council Offices, Urban Road,  
Kirkby-in-Ashfield,**

**on Wednesday, 12th November, 2014 at 6.00 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillor Mrs. M. Barsby, in the Chair;  
Councillors R. Buttery, S.T. Carroll, A. Davidson,  
L.M. Gibbons, D.J. Kirkham, K. Knight, T.C. Locke,  
Mrs. E.A. Mays, Mrs. M.A. Patrick and R.J. Sears-Piccavey.

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors D. Davis, J. Grundy and J.R. Knight.

**Officers Present:** C. Booth, Ms. S.K. Hall and Miss J. Robinson.

### **L.1 Declarations of Interest by Members and Officers**

Councillors Mrs. M. Barsby, Mrs. E.A. Mays and Mrs. M.A. Patrick declared Non Disclosable Pecuniary/Other Interests in respect of Agenda items 4, 5 and 6. Their interests arose from the fact that they currently utilise the services of local Hackney Carriage/Private Hire firms on a frequent/occasional basis.

### **L.2 Minutes**

RESOLVED  
that the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 13th November, 2013 be received and approved as a correct record.

### **L.3 Proposed Hackney Carriage Vehicle Tariffs**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, the Code of Conduct and the Council's Constitution, Councillors Mrs. M. Barsby, Mrs. E.A. Mays and Mrs. M.A. Patrick had previously declared a personal interest in respect of this matter. Their interest was such that it did not preclude them from the meeting or taking part in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report and asked Members to consider an increase in the tariff rates charged by Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed by Ashfield District Council.

In considering the report Members were mindful that out of the 217 letters and voting papers sent out to the drivers seeking their views in respect of a tariff increase only 23 replies were returned. Members also acknowledged that changes could be made to the taxi legislation, as drafted by the Law Commission, which is currently before Parliament and is likely to receive Royal Assent in the New Year.

RESOLVED that

- (a) no changes be made to the current tariff levels charged by Hackney Carriage Vehicles at this present time;
- (b) the Environmental Health Manager be authorised to proceed with the statutory procedures to increase the soiling charge to £60;
- (c) the proposed increase shall take effect from 10th December, 2014;
- (d) the Council continue to review tariffs on receipt of detailed representations from the trade.

Reasons:

To deal with requests from Taxi/Hire Vehicle business operators and licensed hire vehicle drivers seeking an increase or variation of Hackney Carriage Vehicle tariffs.

(Councillor R. Buttery entered the meeting at 6.20 p.m. during consideration of the above item).

#### **L.4 Suggested Changes to Vehicle and Drivers Terms and Conditions**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, the Code of Conduct and the Council's Constitution, Councillors Mrs. M. Barsby, Mrs. E.A. Mays and Mrs. M.A. Patrick had previously declared a personal interest in respect of this matter. Their interest was such that it did not preclude them from the meeting or taking part in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report and asked Members to consider suggested changes to the Council's Terms and Conditions for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers put forward by a locally based Private Hire firm.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the suggested changes to the Council's Terms and Conditions for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers, as put forward by the Managing Director of Oasis Taxis Mansfield Ltd and outlined in the report, be noted;
- (b) any amendments to the Council's Terms and Conditions for Hackney Carriages, Private Hire Vehicles and Drivers be held in abeyance pending the enactment of the Law Commission Bill which is likely to received Royal Assent in the New Year and thereafter, the Terms and Conditions be reviewed and amended accordingly.

Reason:

There are a number of changes to the legislation for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing and Hire Vehicle Drivers currently laid before Parliament which are likely to receive Royal Assent in the New Year. Some of the suggestions put forward by the Managing Director of Oasis Taxis Mansfield Ltd are covered within the new legislation.

#### **L.5 Amended Terms and Conditions for Driver, Operator and Vehicle Licensing**

In accordance with the Local Government Act, 1972, the Code of Conduct and the Council's Constitution, Councillors Mrs. M. Barsby, Mrs. E.A. Mays and Mrs. M.A. Patrick had previously declared a personal interest in respect of this matter. Their interest was such that it did not preclude them from the meeting or taking part in the discussion and voting thereon.

The Environmental Health Manager presented the report and requested Members to consider the proposed revised Terms and Conditions attached to Driver, Operator and Hire Vehicle Licensing.

**RESOLVED**

that the revised Guidance Notes and Terms and Conditions for Driver, Operators and Vehicle Licensing, as set out in the appendix to the report, be approved.

Reason:

There have been a number of changes to the legislation for Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing and in order to keep pace with the changes it is essential that vehicle owners and drivers have up to date information. It will help to ensure that the Council's system of Hire Vehicle Licensing and Driver Licensing is fair and consistent with other Nottinghamshire Authorities. The revised terms and conditions will also ensure that the Hire Vehicle licensed by the Council can be maintained in a safe and clean condition for Hire Vehicle users.

The meeting closed at 7.22 p.m.

Chairman.