

**BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GENERAL LICENSING REGULATORY BOARD**



**16<sup>th</sup> January, 2013**

14. **Present:** Councillors C. C. Wraith (Chairman), Bruff, P Birkinshaw, Brook, J Carr, Davies, Duerden, Ennis, Johnson, Millner, Noble, M. Sheard, T Sheard, Shepherd, Sixmith, Tattersall, and Wilson.

15. **Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

16. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2012 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record subject to the addition of the word 'not' between the words 'is' and 'permitted' of the last line of resolution (i) to Minute 13 'Prohibition of Alcohol Consumption in designated Public Places – Oakwell Area'

17. **Sex Shop Licence – Application to Renew**

The Principal Officer (Licensing) submitted a report on an application from Darker Enterprises Ltd for the renewal of the licence to use the premises at 3, Doncaster Road, Barnsley as a Sex Shop from 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2013.

The premises had been in operation as a Sex Shop for a continuous period of over twenty years. There had been no complaints about the operation of the premises over the last twelve months and, in addition, there had been no objections or comments received as a result of the statutory consultation required as part of the renewal process.

**RESOLVED** that the licence for the use of 3 Doncaster Road, Barnsley as a Sex Shop be approved from 18<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 in accordance with the previous licences issued.

18. **Review of Taxi Licensing in Barnsley**

The Executive Director Development, Environment and Culture presented a report on the outcome of the fundamental review of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Services provided by the Council. The report was submitted to this Board for consultation purposes prior to submission for approval by Cabinet and Council.

The report gave details of the rationale for the review which had been instigated as a result of a recommendation of the District Auditor following an objection, in 2011, to the Barnsley MBC accounts by the Taxi Trade.

It gave details of the eight key themes examined, namely:

- The review of Licence Conditions
- The review of Policies
- Taxi Partnership Working
- The review of the application process
- Vehicle testing
- The review of Fees
- Governance arrangements
- Physical Infrastructure for taxis within the Borough

The report went on to outline the alternative approaches considered, the recommended options and the potential implications for local people and service users as well as the consultation undertaken as part of this process.

A series of 12 recommendations was presented which, if adopted, aimed to ensure the continued provision of high quality and cost effective services to the taxi trade and general public in Barnsley.

The report engendered a full and frank discussion during which matters of a general and detailed nature were raised and answers were given to Members questions where appropriate. Particular concern was expressed at the recommendation that in 12 months time consideration would be given to the feasibility of Officer Panels undertaking hearings into driver fitness and other taxi matters rather than a Panel of Members drawn from this Board. Members felt that such an approach would not be seen by representatives of the Taxi Trade as being a truly independent process.

**RESOLVED** that the Cabinet be informed of this Board's support for the recommendations in relation to the future provision of Taxi Services in Barnsley (as outlined within paragraph 2 of the report now submitted) subject to the deletion of recommendation 9 in relation to the possible future use of Officer Panels.

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Chairman