

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 26 October 2016
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors C. Wraith MBE (Chair), J. Carr, Charlesworth, Clarke, Frost, S. Green, Daniel Griffin, W. Johnson, Millner, Richardson, Saunders, Shepherd and Wilson

4 Declaration of Interests

Councillor Richardson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6 in his capacity as Secretary of the IAM RoadSmart road safety charity.

5 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th June, 2016 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Arising therefrom, it was reported that a Home to School Transport Audit Operation would be undertaken sometime before Christmas. Details would be provided to Members of the Board should they wish to attend the Operation.

It was confirmed that a new member of staff had been recruited to the team and that licensing enforcement activities were fully operational.

The Board discussed concerns with regard to the dress code of some taxi drivers and was informed that, although such a dress code had been drafted and issued informally to drivers, it had not been formally approved as policy.

RESOLVED that a report on taxi drivers' dress code be submitted to the next Board meeting.

6 Driving Standards Agency - taxi tests

The Service Director Culture, Housing and Regulation provided the Board with details of the decision of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) to no longer offer the DSA driving test to taxi drivers. This has caused some concern as the Council, along with the majority, if not all, local authorities use the DSA test as the compulsory part of their licensing processes. As a result the following actions have been taken:-

- Short term – New applicants and drivers who are mandated to undertake the test will be directed to the nearest DSA test centre in Sheffield.
- Longer term - The Council will need to set our own minimum driver standards and then invite expressions of interest from DSA accredited organisations that are

able to deliver to that standard. Such standards would mirror the standards currently required by the DSA and the aim would be to have more than one provider, in the interest of fair and healthy competition.

- The Council will need to change its conviction policy to reflect the fact that the DSA test was no longer available and make reference to alternative driving test stations approved by the Council.
- The approved list of test centres will be made available and published in due course, and in time for the New Year.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) that the latest position in respect of the Driving Standards Agency taxi drivers test and the action taken by officers as reported above, be noted;
- (ii) that a further report containing details of our own minimum drivers standards and progress towards an approved list of test centres be submitted to the next Board meeting;
- (iii) that a briefing note on this issue be circulated to all Members of the Council;
and
- (iv) that Uber taxis be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Chair