

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 26 June 2019
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present Councillors Wraith MBE (Chair), Cherryholme, Green, Daniel Griffin, Shepherd, Sumner, Tattersall and Wilson

1 Declaration of Interests

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

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 24th April, 2019 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3 Enforcement Update

The Service Director, Legal Services submitted a report providing an overview of the work of Licensing Enforcement Officers undertaken recently.

On 16th May officers, alongside vehicle examiners from Smithies Lane Depot took part in a day time operation focusing on town centre Hackney Carriage ranks and Private Hire operators throughout the borough. Of the 13 vehicles inspected 11 were found to be compliant and 2 were issued with immediate suspension notices for having inoperative side lights.

The Chair commended that it was pleasing that standards were improving. It was also acknowledged that the taxi operators were fully supportive of officers and assisted enforcement operations.

RESOLVED:-

- (i) That the report be noted: and
- (ii) That the Board place on record their appreciation to the staff within the Licensing Service and Smithies Lane Depot for all their hard work in undertaking enforcement activities, ensuring the continued safety of the travelling public.

4 Driver Appeals - Update

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report providing an overview of the results given by the Magistrates Court following the appeal by Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers of the recent decisions of the General Licensing Regulatory Board.

Those present heard how the appellant in the second case had not only challenged the decision of the General Licensing Regulatory Board Panel, but had also challenged the recent changes in policy in regard to criminal convictions. Members acknowledged that this had been changed to avoid any ambiguity for those wishing to reapply, with any reapplications within a period of 5 years to be refused.

Members noted that on both occasions the Magistrates found in favour of the Local Authority.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the report be noted and ;
- (ii) That thanks be given to the Solicitors of the Council for their continued hard work in supporting the licensing function.

5 Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase

The Service Director Legal Services submitted a report on a request received from the Barnsley Hackney Carriage Association to increase the current Hackney Carriage Tariff.

Members were reminded of the findings of the Hackney Carriage Demand Survey, which was presented to the Board on 20th December, 2017. This highlighted the need to encourage the availability of carriages at times where demand currently exceeded supply, specifically between the hours of 3.00am - 7.00am on Sunday mornings.

The request received, if approved by the Board, would be advertised in the local press. If there were no objections received, this would be duly implemented. However, if any objections were received then this would be reconsidered by the Board.

Members discussed the proposed increases and the impact on hackney carriage users at times other than early on Sunday morning, including over the Christmas period. Whilst the proposed increases at these times were not as a result of the demand survey, it was recognised that the Hackney Carriage Tariff had not increased since February, 2017 and costs in providing the service would have increased.

Those present discussed the impact on Private Hire providers, but it was acknowledged that fares were set by the providers themselves, rather than the local authority.

RESOLVED that the proposal by Barnsley Hackney Carriage Association to increase the Hackney Carriage fares as detailed in Appendix 1 be advertised in accordance with the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, and subject to no objections being received, be approved for implementation from 00.01 on Saturday 13th July, 2019.

Chair