

DONCASTER METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

19TH DECEMBER, 2013

A MEETING of the LICENSING COMMITTEE was held at the CIVIC OFFICE, WATERDALE, DONCASTER on THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER, 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

Chair – Councillor Ken Keegan

Councillors Patricia Bartlett, Elsie Butler, Barbara Hedley, Moira Hood, Sue McGuinness, David Nevett and Austen White.

APOLOGIES:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Paul Coddington, Susan Phillips, Patricia Schofield and Paul Wray.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST, IF ANY

There were no declarations made at the meeting.

12. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 19th September, 2013, were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

13. MINUTES OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 'B' MEETING HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER, 2013

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee 'B' meeting held on 4th October, 2013, be noted.

14. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY – AMENDMENT TO SECTION 3.13 DURATION OF DRIVERS' LICENCES

The Committee considered a report which sought approval to amend Section 3.13, of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Members noted that the Doncaster Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy (HC & PH Licensing Policy) currently restricted the option of a 3 year duration driver licence to existing licensed hackney carriage

and private hire drivers who:

- had held a HC/PH licence for 2 or more years, and
- had achieved a nationally-recognised vocational qualification for the taxi and private hire trade.

In all other cases, licences were issued for 12 months.

It was reported that whilst there were no proposed changes to the suitability test for licensed drivers, the report sought to amend the Policy to give all licence holders the option to apply for either a 1 or 3 year licence on renewal, irrespective of the length of time they had held the licence and to remove the requirement to have achieved a nationally- recognised vocational qualification for the taxi and private hire trade.

Following the presentation of the report, the Business and Safety Licensing Manager and the Licensing Officer responded to Members questions in particular, relating to what were the requirements for a taxi driver to acquire a nationally recognised vocational qualification for the taxi and Private Hire Vehicle trade i.e.(Level 2 NVQ Certificate in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving); what powers were available to the licensing authority to deal with complaints from the public regarding taxi drivers and whether the licensing authority had jurisdiction to assist taxi drivers who had been treated unfairly by customers.

RESOLVED that Section 3.13 of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, entitled 'Duration of Drivers' Licences', be amended to be replaced with the following, thereby giving all licensed hackney and private hire drivers the option to renew their drivers' licence for 3 years:-

3.13 Duration of Drivers' Licences

All newly granted drivers' licences remain in force for 12 full calendar months from the date of issue.

On renewal, all licence holders are given the option of a 1 or 3 year licence.