

**LICENSING COMMITTEE
28TH FEBRUARY 2017**

PRESENT: Councillor Pacey (Chair)
Councillor Williams (Vice-chair)
Councillors Bentley, Brookes, Capleton, Murphy, Radford,
Savage, Smith, Sutherland, Taylor and Tillotson

Democratic Services Manager
Licensing Manager
Licensing Enforcement Officer (PR)
Licensing Officer
Democratic Services Officer (LS)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Lowe (Vice-chair) and Shergill

An apology was also received from Councillor Parton following the meeting.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24th January 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed.

17. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY AND PERSONAL INTERESTS

No disclosures were made.

18. QUESTIONS UNDER OTHER COMMITTEE PROCEDURES 12.8

No questions had been submitted.

19. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

A report of the Head of Regulatory Services was submitted requesting the approval of the new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing policy following consultation with the public and hackney carriage/private hire trade (item 5 on the agenda filed with these minutes).

In accordance with the Committee's decision at its last meeting, persons who had made representations on this matter had been invited to attend the meeting to present those representations. Mr R. Barrow attended the meeting, but was content for the Committee to consider his representation as set out in paragraph E on page 6 of the report and did not wish to speak on the matter.

Councillor Bentley arrived at the meeting at 6.08pm.

RESOLVED

1. that the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved for implementation from 1st April 2017;
2. that the move to only issuing a combined driver's licence (for driving both Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles) as set out in the new Policy be implemented for existing drivers when their current licence is renewed;
3. that existing drivers wishing to move to a combined driver's licence earlier than when their current licence is due for renewal be required to successfully complete the three test papers which new applicants for a driver's licence will be required to successfully complete under the new Policy;
4. that the Head of Regulatory Services be given delegated authority to make minor amendments and alterations, and amendments required to comply with changes to legislation and Government guidance, to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee;
5. that the Head of Regulatory Services be asked to submit a report to the Committee in 12 months' time, to enable it to review how the new Policy is working.

Reasons

1. To ensure that the Council has a policy that sets out the requirements and standards that must be met and guides the Council in the way that it carries out its functions.
2. To enable the new combined driver's licence to be phased in over a period of three years from 1st April 2017, to assist a smooth transition to the new arrangements and in light of the concerns regarding a possible adverse effect on the Hackney Carriage trade as set out in reason 5. below.
3. To further support the phased transition to the new combined driver's licence and the reasons for that.
4. To ensure that minor and necessary amendments to the policy can be made in a timely manner.
5. The Committee noted that the option of drivers having a combined driver's licence had been in place at Charnwood since 2014 (currently known as a dual badge) without a large uptake of that option, that all other authorities in the County only issued a combined licence and that a vehicle had to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage to be driven as such. However, some members of the Committee remained

concerned that the move to only issuing a combined licence as set out in the new Policy might result in the number of Hackney Carriages operating in the Borough increasing to a level that would be detrimental to the trade. Therefore, the Committee wished to monitor the position in that respect in due course.

NOTES

1. No reference may be made to these minutes at the Council meeting on 24th April 2017 unless notice to that effect is given to the Democratic Services Manager by five members of the Council by noon on the fifth working day following publication of the minutes.
2. These minutes are subject to confirmation as a correct record at the next meeting of the Committee.