
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 21 January 2016 from 7.00 - 7.08 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Cameron Beart (substitute for Councillor Anita Walker), Bobbin (substitute for Councillor Prescott Vice-Chairman), Tina Booth, Roger Clark, Paul Fleming, Lesley Ingham (Chairman) and Ben Stokes.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mike Knowles, Ian Mackenzie and Kellie MacKenzie.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Lloyd Bowen, June Garrad, Prescott (Vice-Chairman) and Anita Walker.

440 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the evacuation procedure.

441 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July 2015 (Minute Nos. 94 – 98) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

442 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

443 PUBLIC SESSION

There were no questions.

444 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CONTROL SYSTEMS

The Chairman introduced the report which recommended revisions to the control and management systems deployed in the issuing of licences and local regulations as part of the ongoing review and management of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire service.

The Committee considered each recommendation outlined in the report. The Hackney Carriage Inspector provided some background information and responded to various questions from Members.

In response to a query, the Hackney Carriage Inspector stated that any Members concerned that drivers were not using the direct route for a fare to contact him direct. He spoke about iCars based on the Isle of Sheppey which allowed customers to book via an App on their iPhone and used Satellite Navigation. He stated that this was a safer and more efficient mode of transport moving forward.

Resolved:

- (1) That paragraph 9 of the Local Conditions July 2015 as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the Committee report be amended.***
- (2) That paragraph 13 of the Local Conditions July 2015 as detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the Committee report be deleted.***
- (3) That the five pounds (£5) levy, to check the driving history for new drivers as detailed in paragraph 2.3 of the Committee report be removed.***
- (4) That the requirement for the supplementary DVLA Driving test as detailed in paragraph 2.4 of the Committee report be removed.***
- (5) That an optional English Test for new drivers as and when required as detailed in paragraph 2.5 of the Committee report be introduced.***
- (6) That the Knowledge Test as detailed in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of the Committee report be revised.***

Chairman

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All Minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the Committee/Panel