
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Meeting held in the Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT on Thursday, 7 July 2016 from 7.00pm - 7.12 pm.

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

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mohammad Bauluck, Katherine Bescoby, Martyn Cassell and Angela Seaward.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Prescott and Anita Walker.

774 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman outlined the emergency evacuation procedure.

775 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2016 (Minute Nos. 440 – 444) were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to an amendment to Minute No. 444 as follows:

Resolution 5 be amended to read to remove reference to paragraph 2.5 in the report, to read “That an optional English Test for new drivers as and when required be introduced.”

776 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared.

777 PUBLIC SESSION

The Chairman advised that no requests to register to speak had been received.

778 UPDATE ON THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING FUNCTION

The Committee considered the report which gave an update on the transition of the Hackney Carriage function from Leisure and Technical Services to the Corporate Licensing Team; and changes to the Knowledge Test. The report also asked Members to agree to a review of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy in October 2016.

The Leisure and Technical Services Manager and the Senior Licensing Officer answered Members' questions regarding the transfer of functions to the Licensing team. Whilst there would no longer be a dedicated inspector, the Licensing Enforcement officers would be taking on this role, meaning that there would be three officers instead of one, and one already had a wealth of experience in this field.

The Leisure and Technical Services Manager also outlined the changes to the format of the Knowledge Test, and advised that implementation of an English Test would be considered as part of the proposed review of the policy in October; best practice in the industry would be considered. He also confirmed that there would be consultation with Operators about changes to the policy, and that a draft policy would be brought to the Committee in October, prior to it going out for consultation. The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager advised that potential dates for an additional Committee meeting were 25 or 27 October 2016.

Resolved:

(1) That the summary of the transition of the Hackney Carriage function from Leisure and Technical Services to the Corporate Licensing Team be noted.

(2) That the changes made to the Knowledge Test format be agreed.

(3) That the Committee agrees that work is undertaken to review the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and options for combining with Swale Local Conditions; and that a new date is set for a General Licensing Committee meeting in October 2016.

Chairman

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