

At a meeting of the REGULATORY COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC CENTRE on MONDAY, 5TH JANUARY, 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

Present:-

Councillor Old in the Chair

Councillors Errington, Francis, P. Gibson, Gofton, G. Hall, Paul Maddison, Peter Maddison, T. Martin, D. Richardson, Trueman, J. W. Walton, Whalen and A. Wilson.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor J. B. Scott.

Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Committee held on 24th November, 2008 – Part I and of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 15th December, 2008.

1. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 24th November, 2008 – Part I and of the extraordinary meeting held on 15th December, 2008 (copies circulated) be confirmed and signed as correct records.

Briefing Session on Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licensing

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on a proposal to hold a briefing session for Members with Northumbria Police on the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

2. RESOLVED that approval be given to the holding of a briefing session for Members on Monday, 19th January, 2009 at 2.00 p.m. regarding the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers.

Amendments to Procedures for Applicants undertaking a Knowledge/Locality Test and Applicants for the Renewal of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licences

The Director of Community and Cultural Services submitted a report (copy circulated) on proposed amendments in the procedures to ensure that all licensed drivers are fully

aware of the requirement of Condition Six of their licence and their responsibility to report any caution or conviction they may receive during the duration of their Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence within the time period specified.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

With regard to the declaration document (attached at Appendix One to the report), Councillor Gibson requested that rather than waiting for licenses to be up for renewal, the document together with an explanatory covering letter, should be sent as soon as possible to all current holders of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licences.

Tom Terrett, Trading Standards and Licensing Manager, having confirmed that this was feasible, it was:-

3. RESOLVED that:-

- i) the proposed amendments in the procedures currently relating to applicants undertaking a knowledge/locality test and those applying for the renewal of licences to drive hackney carriage and/or private hire vehicles, as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- ii) the declaration document as detailed in Appendix One to the report be sent for completion to all existing holders of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licences.

Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

4. RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered likely to include the disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual and the financial or business affairs of a particular person (including the authority holding that information). (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, Part 1 Paragraphs 1 and 3).

(Signed) S. OLD,
Chairman

Note:

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to members of the public.

Additional minutes in respect of further items are included in Part II.