

**LICENSING REGULATORY
COMMITTEE**

1.00 P.M.

13TH JULY 2017

PRESENT: Councillors Colin Hartley (Chairman), Terrie Metcalfe (Vice-Chairman),
Alan Biddulph, Mel Guilding, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Joan Jackson,
Janice Hanson and Robert Redfern

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Susie Charles

Officers in Attendance:

Nick Howard	Public Protection Group Manager
Luke Gorst	Solicitor
David Eglin	Licensing Enforcement Officer
Marie Sharkey	Licensing Enforcement Officer
Jane Glenton	Democratic Support Officer

12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

13 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business authorised by the Chairman.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chairman referred to Agenda Item No. 9, which was the report of the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager – *Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares – Notification of Objection Received*. Members were advised that, as the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager was unable to attend the meeting, the Chairman had determined that the item should be deferred and considered at a meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee, which would take place on Thursday, 3rd August 2017 at Lancaster Town Hall, starting at 1.00 p.m.

15 EXEMPT ITEMS

In accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public were excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of that Act.

16 APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF DUAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - JOHN EAMONN CRAWFORD (PAGES 5 - 6)

The Committee received the report of the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager to enable Members to consider whether or not to renew Mr. Crawford's dual hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence.

Details of the individual case and the Chairman's summary of the decision are set out in Exempt Minute No. 16, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Decision of the Committee:

That Mr. Crawford's application to renew his dual hackney carriage and private hire driver's licence be approved, and that he be issued with a warning that he should, in future, disclose to the Council in writing details of any conviction, caution or fixed penalty imposed on him during the period of the licence within seven days of such change taking place.

The Committee adjourned for a 5 minute comfort break.**17 NOTIFICATION OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER THE URGENT BUSINESS PROCEDURE - EXISTING DUAL DRIVER'S LICENCE HOLDER - MARTIN ANDREW WOODCOCK**

The Committee received the report of the Democratic Services Manager to inform Members of a decision taken by the Chief Officer (Health and Housing), in consultation with the Chairman of Licensing Regulatory Committee.

Decision of the Committee:

That the decision taken by the Chief Officer (Health and Housing), in consultation with the Chairman of Licensing Regulatory Committee, in relation to the following matter, be noted:

That Mr. Woodcock's dual driver's licence be revoked, and that the revocation of the licence be with immediate effect in the interests of public safety.

18 PUBLIC ITEMS

The press and public were readmitted to the meeting at this point.

19 REPORT ON THE VEHICLE CHECKS CARRIED OUT TO LICENSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES ON 14TH AND 15TH JUNE 2017

The Committee received the report of the Food, Safety and Licensing Manager to inform the Committee of the outcome from the recent unannounced checks carried out jointly with Licensing Officers and VOSA on licensed hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

It was reported that roadside vehicle compliance and safety checks on licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles had been carried out on 14th and 15th June 2017 to determine whether vehicles complied with the Council's standards for licensed vehicles

and to assess their road worthiness. No notice period had been given and the checks had been carried out unannounced.

The operation had been conducted in partnership with VOSA, working closely with Lancashire Police. The drivers of the vehicles had been instructed on the day by police officers and via taxi operators to attend the inspections, which had been carried out on the rear car park of Salt Ayre Leisure Centre by licensing officers.

Vehicles that were not operating on the day or had not been found on the day or pulled in, due to time constraints on officers, would be followed up in the coming weeks.

A total of 176 individual vehicle inspections had been carried out, and 62 hackney carriages and 114 private hire vehicles had been checked. Licensing staff had issued 75 defect notices and 2 suspension notices. VOSA had issued 5 prohibition notices. Defects had ranged from minor, e.g. vehicle cleanliness, to serious, e.g. bald tyres.

The operation had identified some problems with the type of fire extinguishers carried. The advice from VOSA was that dry powder extinguishers could lead to asphyxiation if used within the vehicle. They recommended the use of water or foam extinguishers. It was noted that once clarification had been received from VOSA, the conditions of licence might need to be varied, as they did not specify the type of extinguisher to be provided.

It was reported that licensing officers and VOSA felt that the lack of prior notice had resulted in a higher number of defects being detected, compared to the previous operation in September 2015, when 32 defect notices had been issued.

It was requested that consideration be given to the introduction of a penalty points system, and the Public Protection Group Manager advised that he would take this forward.

Resolved:

That the outcome from the recent unannounced inspections of licensed vehicles carried out on 14th and 15th June 2017 and the potential action arising in respect of the use of in car fire extinguishers and appropriate specification be noted.

20 PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES - NOTIFICATION OF OBJECTION RECEIVED

The item was deferred for consideration on 3rd August 2017.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 1.53 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Jane Glenton, Democratic Services - telephone (01524) 582068, or email
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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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