

LICENSING COMMITTEE

2.00 P.M.

2ND JULY 2020

PRESENT:- Councillors Colin Hartley (Chair), Mel Guilding (Vice-Chair), Richard Austen-Baker, Mandy Bannon, Roger Dennison, Merv Evans and Mike Greenall

Apologies for Absence

Councillors Kevin Frea, Abi Mills and Jean Parr

Officers in attendance:

Daniel Spencer	Criminal Lawyer
Jenette Hicks	Licensing Manager
Liz Bateson	Principal Democratic Support Officer, Democratic Services

12 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 4 June 2020 were agreed as a correct record. The Chair confirmed that the minute book would be signed when it became available.

13 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

At this point the Chair requested that the Licensing Manager outline the precautions that were being undertaken with regard to guidance, regulatory control and public safety prior to the opening of a number of licensed premises on 4 July. It was noted that Licensing and Environmental Health officers were working with the Police and would be in regular contact with each other throughout the weekend.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15 PROPOSAL FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A FAST TRACK DRIVER (HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE) APPLICATION PROCESS

The Licensing Manager presented a report which sought the Committee's approval for the introduction of a 'fast track' new driver application for persons whose Lancaster City Council private hire/hackney carriage drivers licence had expired within 2 years of submission of a completed new hackney carriage/private hire drivers application.

It was recognised that the impact of the pandemic on the taxi trade had been huge. The night-time economy had effectively been closed down for 4 months and many vulnerable/elderly persons who might have normally relied on taxi services to take them to the doctors, hairdressers, and shopping had been forced to shield at home. A large percentage of licensed drivers had not worked during this time and might decide not to re-enter the taxi trade until circumstances returned to similar to pre-pandemic. The proposal

allowed licenced drivers not to renew their hackney carriage/private hire driver's licence at expiry but to apply at a later date (within 2 years of expiry) as a fast track new applicant.

It was proposed by Councillor Greenall and seconded by Councillor Guiding:

"That the recommendation, as set out in the report, be approved."

There was no dissent to the proposal and the Chair declared the proposal clearly carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That approval be given with immediate effect to the introduction of a "fast track" new application procedure for drivers whose previous Lancaster City Council hackney carriage/ private hire drivers licence has expired within two years of the completed submission of their new application.

16 UPDATE ON LICENSING WORKPLAN 2020

The Licensing Manager presented a report to update the Committee in respect of progress regarding the Licensing 2020 work plan approved by the Committee at its' meeting 28 November 2019. It was noted that whilst there had been some progress with the workplan, it had been hampered by the coronavirus pandemic and reduced staff resources during January/February 2020 as day to day activities took priority over planned reviews and developments. The report also provided an outline of the key licensing issues arising during the pandemic.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that it was intended that a further update on the work plan would be provided to the Committee in November 2020 or in January 2021.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted.

17 EXEMPT ITEM

The Chair advised Members that it had been recommended to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information.

It was moved by Councillor Dennison and seconded by Councillor Greenall:

"That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be 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."

No dissent was indicated to the proposal to exclude the press and public.

Resolved:

That, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be 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.

The Chair concluded the 'live teams meeting' at this point and adjourned the meeting. The meeting reconvened in a private teams meeting.

18 DETERMINATION OF A RENEWAL APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (PAGES 4 - 6)

The Committee received the report of the Licensing Manager for the purpose of determining the suitability of the applicant for the renewal of a private hire driver's licence.

Details of the individual case and the Chair's summary of the decision are set out in Exempt Minute No. 18, in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Decision of the Committee:

That, based on the Licensing Manager's report and the applicant's representation, the Committee resolves that the applicant remained a fit and proper person to be granted a private hire driver's licence.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 2.52 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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