

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

27TH MARCH 2014

- (2) That the option to require existing drivers to complete the assessment following any reports or complaints of driving issues be maintained.
- (3) That it be mandatory for the driver of a registered wheelchair accessible vehicle to pass the taxi wheelchair exercise.
- (4) That existing drivers of registered wheelchair accessible vehicles be given a period of 6 months, until 30th September 2014, to pass the upgrade assessment.
- (5) That for anyone who upgrades from a non-registered wheelchair accessible vehicle to a registered wheelchair accessible vehicle:
 - (a) it be mandatory for them to pass the taxi wheelchair exercise; and
 - (b) the possibility of incentives through reduced licence fees be considered by officers and reported back to the Committee.
- (6) That the conditions be imposed from 1st April 2014."

Upon being put to the vote, 5 Members voted in favour of the proposition and 2 against, with 2 abstentions, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposal to be carried.

It was then proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Dixon:

"That the requirement to have held an ordinary DVLA driving licence for a period of three years be deleted as from 1st April 2014."

Upon being put to the vote, 6 Members voted in favour of the proposition and 2 against, with 1 abstention, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposal to be carried.

Resolved:

- (1) That a new condition be attached to applications for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences requiring applicants to pass the Driving Standards Agency Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Standard Assessment.
- (2) That the option to require existing drivers to complete the assessment following any reports or complaints of driving issues be maintained.
- (3) That it be mandatory for the driver of a registered wheelchair accessible vehicle to pass the taxi wheelchair exercise.
- (4) That existing drivers of registered wheelchair accessible vehicles be given a period of 6 months, until 30th September 2014, to pass the upgrade assessment.
- (5) That for anyone who upgrades from a non-registered wheelchair accessible vehicle to a registered wheelchair accessible vehicle:
 - (a) it be mandatory for them to pass the taxi wheelchair exercise; and
 - (b) the possibility of incentives through reduced licence fees be considered by officers and reported back to the Committee.

- (6) That the conditions be imposed from 1st April 2014.
- (7) That the requirement to have held an ordinary DVLA driving licence for a period of three years be deleted as from 1st April 2014.

101 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 - PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Committee received the report of the Licensing Manager to enable Members to recommend for consultation with hackney carriage proprietors the proposed variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares in line with the current Retail Price Index (RPI) rate.

It was reported that at its last meeting (minute no. 87 (2013/14) refers), the Committee had approved an amendment to procedure in relation to the amendment of hackney carriage fares. Members had agreed that they would recommend a proposal taking account of the current annual RPI rate and that hackney carriage proprietors would then be asked to vote on whether an increase was required during the particular financial year. Financial Services had confirmed that the latest RPI rate was 2.8%.

Members were advised that the result of the hackney carriage proprietors' vote would be reported back to the Committee in June. If Members were minded to proceed to a variation, the statutory procedure would require a notice to be placed in a local newspaper to allow for objections to be made.

It was proposed by Councillor Dixon and seconded by Councillor Johnson:

"That the proposed variation of hackney carriage fares, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be recommended for consultation with hackney carriage proprietors."

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposition, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposal to be clearly carried.

Resolved:

That the proposed variation of hackney carriage fares, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be recommended for consultation with hackney carriage proprietors.

102 RECENT COURT CASES

Committee received the report of the Licensing Manager to inform Members of the outcomes of recent court cases in relation to hackney carriage and private hire drivers. The report had been deferred at the last meeting of the Committee.

Members noted the cases that had been determined in Lancaster Magistrates' Court in the last four months, in relation to licensing matters.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.