

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

18 JANUARY 2018

PRESENT

Councillor M. Cornes (in the Chair).

Councillors J. Holden (Vice-Chairman), Mrs. A. Bruer-Morris, D. Bunting, A. Duffield, Mrs. D.L. Haddad, D. Jarman and E.W. Stennett

In attendance

I. Veitch	- Head of Regulatory Services
J. Boyle	- Licensing Team Leader
G. Levy	- Regulatory Services Mgr (Trading Standards & Licensing)
R. Smithson	- Solicitor (Corporate and Commercial)
E. Sharples	- Legal Executive (Litigation)
N. Owen	- Democratic and Scrutiny Officer

Also Present

Councillor B. Brotherton (Substitute for Councillor M. Freeman)

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor M. Freeman.

25. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Public Protection Sub-Committee meeting held on 4th December 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26. INTRODUCTION OF A KNOWLEDGE TEST AND CHANGES TO THE CURRENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST FOR ALL NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER APPLICANTS

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report seeking approval to consult on a proposal to re-introduce a local area knowledge test and a proposal to raise the level of the English language test for all new hackney carriage/private hire driver applicants.

The Licensing Officers answered questions from Sub-Committee members on the previous test, the procedure before the test was removed, the present waiting list of people who wish to apply for a licence and cross border hiring regulations.

The Chairman sought views from members of the trade who were in attendance at the meeting.

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RESOLVED: -

- (1) That the Sub-Committee agreed that officers consult on the following proposals:-
 - That all those submitting an application for a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence on or after the "Knowledge Test" introduction date be required to pass a local area knowledge test as part of the application process.
 - That those submitting an application for a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence on or after the introduction date are able to meet the language level which has been set for those seeking to apply for naturalisation as a British citizen; or have passed a relevant English Language qualification at a suitable level.
 - That those submitting an application for a private hire or hackney carriage driver's badge on or after the introduction date be granted a dual private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence (on the basis that the test requirements will now be the same)
- (2) That the Sub-Committee also agreed:
 - That the Director of Growth and Regulatory Services be authorised to determine the introduction date and content of the knowledge test; and the introduction date of the English Language test.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.30 pm