

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

21 NOVEMBER 2013

PRESENT

Councillor C. Candish (in the Chair).

Councillors B. Sharp (Vice-Chairman), M. Freeman, D. Jarman, P. Myers, J. Smith, N. Taylor and Mrs. J. Wilkinson

In attendance

M. Jones	- Interim Head of Legal Services
P. Grendon	- Solicitor
J. Boyle	- Licensing Team Leader
N. Owen	- Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor D. Bunting

26. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Public Protection Sub-Committee meetings held on 18th April 2013, 16th May 2013, 20th June 2013 and 18th July 2013 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

27. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE POLICY - INTERIM MEASURES

The Head of Public Protection submitted a report requesting Members to consider a request from Allied Vehicles Limited to agree interim arrangements which would allow the Council to consider individual applications to licence the Peugeot E7 Taxi, pending a full review of the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy.

Representations were made by Mr. Guillatt, Allied Vehicles, Mr. Francis, London Taxi Company and several members of the Trade.

(Note: During the meeting it became apparent that legal advice, likely to lead to the disclosure of exempt information was needed by the Sub-Committee and the Chairman invited the Sub-Committee to exclude the Press and public from the meeting whilst this advice was given).

RESOLVED: That members of the Press and public be excluded from the meeting by virtue of Paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 to enable the Sub-Committee to receive, consider and debate legal advice.

Members of the Press and public returned to the meeting to allow the Chairman to announce the Sub-Committee's decision.

Public Protection Sub-Committee
21 November 2013

RESOLVED –

- (1) That in addition to the vehicles currently authorised, the Licensing Team Leader be authorised to consider licensing as a Hackney Carriage any vehicle which meets all of the following criteria:
- Any vehicle which has European Community Whole Vehicle Type Approval; and has a Certificate of Conformity specific to that vehicle; and
 - is black in colour and displays the word “Taxi” on an illuminated roof sign and on either side of the vehicle; and
 - has been constructed to facilitate the carriage of disabled persons comfortably and securely and is capable of accommodating a disabled person in a wheelchair in the passenger compartment (acknowledging that not all wheelchairs may be accommodated); and
 - has suitable ramps for a wheelchair user; and
 - is less than four years old or in exceptional condition.
- (2) That pending a full review of the Council’s current Hackney Carriage Vehicle, the Licensing Team Leader also be authorised to consider licensing as a Hackney Carriage any vehicle even though it does not meet the Condition of Fitness turning circle requirement, provided it meets all the above criteria.
- (3) That the Sub-Committee agree the scope of the full review of the current Hackney Carriage Vehicle Policy as detailed at paragraph 3 of the report and that a report be presented to the Sub-Committee in June 2014 following a twelve week consultation period with relevant stakeholders, recommending appropriate amendments to the policy.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 7.31 pm