

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing Committee held on Wednesday, 26th June 2013 at 6.00 pm in the Wrekin Room, The Business Development Centre, Stafford Park 4, Telford

PRESENT

Councillors: C Mason (Chair), T Hope, J Seymour, R Sloan, M Smith, J Thompson and K Tomlinson.

Officers in attendance: Jonathan Eatough – Assistant Director: Law, Democracy and Public Protection, Tina Street – Solicitor, Suzanne Fisher – Public Protection Team Leader, Carl Phillips – Licensing Technical Officer and Wendy Buckley - Democratic Services Support Officer.

LC - 01 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meetings held on 26th March 2013 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

LC - 02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors – A Mackenzie, R Scammell and C Turley.

LC - 03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

LC - 04 AMENDMENTS TO THE COUNCIL'S POLICY ON TESTS FOR LICENSED DRIVERS

The Licensing Technical Officer advised Members of the proposal to alter the current Driving Test, which was an amended condition of licence in September 2011, and to consult with the trade over a four week period. The Chair of the Licensing Committee and the Principal Licensing Officer would then consider and determine the results of the consultation. If it was determined that changes would be required to the proposed condition of licence, the matter would be brought back to the Licensing Committee for further consideration.

Members were also advised that all existing private hire drivers must take the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) tests before 31st October 2013. The test would be taken at Hortonwood at a cost of either £80 or £96 depending of which day of the week the test was taken. Complaints had been received from drivers which included delays in taking the tests of up to 10 weeks and the cost of the test involved. Appendix A attached to the agenda includes the current test, with Appendix C, D and E showing what the new test would involve.

It was proposed that a driving assessment test would be carried out by Telford & Wrekin Council Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Team, thereby conducting the test 'in-house' and at a cheaper cost to the driver. The testers would be available 2 days per week and could go to the operator's bases rather than drivers travelling to a testing site.

The Licensing Technical Officer confirmed to Members that there would be no diminution of testing as public safety was the major concern but that a change from the DSA was needed now in view of the number of drivers required to take the test and the time scale in which to do this.

RESOLVED – by unanimous vote – that:

- (a) The current condition in respect of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Test be referred now as Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Team Assessment.**
- (b) The current condition relating to driving tests from 31 October 2013 be removed.**
- (c) The current policy to state that all drivers will be subject to the new Road Safety & Sustainable Transport Assessment. This assessment must be completed on all initial applications and for all existing drivers this must be completed prior to the renewal of Drivers Licence.**
- (d) Members approved a four week consultation for the Chair of the Licensing Committee and the Principal Licensing Officer to consider and determine the results of the consultation.**

Meeting closed at 6.20pm.

Chairman:

Dated: