

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**MONDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2017**

PRESENT:- Councillors Vera Tomlinson (Chair), Abdul Amin, Alan Bishop, Wayne Crabbe, Paul Dixon, Steph Exell, Emma Faramarzi, Colin Lovell, Derique Montaut, Eric Shaw, Carol Shelley, Caryl Sydney-Smith, Nadine Watts and Peter Watts.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nick Martin.

### **24. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

### **25. Minutes**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **26. Public Question Time**

No public questions were received during the meeting.

### **27. Review of the Licensing Conditions in regard to Background Checks with the Disclosure and Barring Service**

The Council's Licensing Manager submitted a report seeking the inclusion of a mandatory condition within the Driver's Handbook requiring all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers to register and maintain a subscription with the Disclosure and Barring Service update service.

Resolved – (1) That the Council's Drivers Handbook be amended to include a mandatory condition requiring all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers to register and maintain a subscription with the Disclosure and Barring Service update service for the duration of their licence to enable the Council's Licensing Team to check all driver's Disclosure and Barring Service Certificate status on an annual basis.

(2) That, further to (1) above, this condition be applied from 1st January 2018 for all new applicants for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence or upon renewal of all existing driver's licences.

### **28. Review of the Licensing Conditions in regard to Wheelchair Accessible Van Conversions as Hackney Carriages**

The Council's Licensing Manager submitted a report setting out a request from the Swindon Taxi Association to change the entry age restrictions on wheelchair accessible "van" conversions as set out within the Council's Driver's Handbook.

Resolved – (1) That the Council's Driver's Handbook be amended to enable alternative wheelchair accessible vehicles to be licensed subject to them meeting all other current Swindon Borough Council licensed vehicle specifications.

(2) That, further to (1) above, the Licensing Manager be delegated, from 1st January 2018, to determine the suitability of future applications for vehicles provided they meet the specified criteria.

**29.                    Review of Licensing Conditions with regard to the Age of a Replacement Vehicle**

The Council's Licensing Manager tabled a report setting out a proposal to change the Council's licensing conditions to permit the replacement of hackney carriage vehicles that are written off due to accident damage with a like for like vehicle of a similar age, registered in the same year or earlier subject to the current vehicle inspection criteria.

Resolved – That, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 and , the Council's Licensing Manager be authorised to permit the replacement of hackney carriage vehicles that are written off a as result of accident damage with a like for like vehicle of a similar age, registered in the same year or earlier.

**30.                    Application for Street Trading within the Town Centre over the Christmas Period**

This item was withdrawn with the agreement of the Committee.