

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2011

PRESENT:- Councillors Richard Hurley (Vice-Chair), Junab Ali, John Ballman, Rex Barnett, Alan Bishop, Wayne Crabbe, Claire Ellis, John Short, Steve Wakefield, David Wood, David Wren and Robert Wright.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Bennett, Michael Bray and Vera Tomlinson.

13. 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.

14. Minutes

Resolved – That, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Claire Ellis in the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2011, be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

15. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

16. Consideration of Swindon Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specifications

The Committee considered (a) a report of the Group Director of Environment, Regeneration and Community setting out recommendations in respect of Hackney Carriage Licence Specifications, (b) an oral update from the Council's Transport Enforcement Officer, (c) a written submission from Allied Vehicles, (d) comments from Hackney Carriage Drivers present at the meeting, and (e) questions to and answers from officers regarding issues raised at the meeting.

Resolved – (1) That, subject to confirmation by Council:

(a) the Council's Hackney Carriage Vehicle Specification be confirmed as the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness with the exception that (i) the reference to a ten metre turning circle for vehicles be removed, and (ii) all vehicles licensed as Hackney Carriages be side loading only in order that they can safely access existing Hackney Carriage ranks;

(b) the age limit vehicles conforming to the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness be retained, as in the current policy, at ten years with a two-year extension based upon an annual inspection and six monthly M.O.T. tests;

(c) the age limit vehicles not conforming to the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness be retained, as in the current policy, at five years with a two-year extension based upon an annual inspection and six monthly M.O.T. tests.

(2) That, further to (1)(c) above, the policy on the age limits of vehicles not conforming to the Metropolitan Conditions of Fitness be reviewed by this Committee once officers have compiled sufficient evidence as to the durability of new models of vehicles being licensed by this Authority.

(3) That this Committee agrees in principle to the creation of a programme of Disability Awareness training for all newly licensed Hackney Carriage and Private

Hire Vehicle drivers and instructs officers to bring a report to this Committee setting out proposals for the training programme together with details of how any such programme will be funded.

(4) That, further to (3) above, any new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers licensed prior to the commencement of a Disability Awareness training programme be required to complete Disability Awareness questions as part of their Drivers Knowledge Test.

(5) That officers submit a report to this Committee, by no later than 1st March 2012, setting out proposals for the future of Hackney Carriage Saloon Vehicles.

(6) That the Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Officer be authorised to write to the Secretary of State for Transport setting out this Committee's disappointment and concern that there is no national guidelines on suitable conditions for the licensing of Hackney Carriage Vehicles.