

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 April 2014, at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 2.30 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Illingworth (Chairman); Councillors Mrs Gallagher, Gill, Mrs Goode, Mrs Higgins, MacKay, Weed and Wreford-Bush.

48. **SUBSTITUTES**

There were no substitutes.

49. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

50. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman reminded Members that at the 16 December meeting the Committee had been consulted on a request from Hackney Carriage Drivers to increase the current hackney carriage fares and for those fares to be reviewed on an annual basis.

The Chairman invited the Regulatory Manager to update the Committee on what had occurred since that meeting.

The Regulatory Manager advised the Committee that at its meeting on 12 March 2014 the Executive had decided to confirm fares at their current rate, to support a review of the policies and procedures relating to taxi licensing and as part of that review, to ask officers to negotiate with drivers about fare charges, prior to reporting back to the Executive.

Further to the Executive's decision, officers had commenced reviewing policies and procedures, starting with the cautions and convictions policy. This would be followed by a review of the code of conduct, the knowledge test and finally the application process itself, including what drivers were required to demonstrate in order to be granted a licence.

A taxi drivers' forum would be set up to feed into this process, to include 2 or 3 private hire taxi drivers, 2 or 3 operators and 5 hackney carriage drivers.

The Committee was pleased that this review was underway and noted that it would receive an update on progress in due course. Members expressed a desire to see an improvement in the quality of taxis and a stronger application process.

The Chairman also stated that he wished to give an update to the Committee on another matter arising from the minutes, but that this would have to be done following the exclusion of the public and press.

51. **PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 that the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting for the following items by reason of the likely disclosure of exempt information within the paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, following the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, as set out below:

Minute No.	Para Nos.	Reason
52 & 53	1	Information relating to any individual
52 & 53	2	Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual

52. **APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE**

The Committee received a report from Health and Community Protection which asked Members to consider whether the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage/private hire drivers licence.

The full minute for this item was contained within a separate confidential minute.

RESOLVED that a decision on this application be deferred in order to allow officers time to chase up requests for information, which would inform the Committee's decision.

Full details of the resolution would be contained within a separate confidential minute.

53. **MINUTES**

Further to approval of the minutes of the last meeting, the Chairman gave the Committee an update relating to a decision made by the Committee on 28 August 2013.

The full minute for this item was contained within a separate confidential minute.

(The meeting ended at 3.10 pm)