

LICENSING APPLICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE 3 MINUTES - 2 AUGUST 2017

Present: Councillor Woodward (Chair);
Councillors Dennis and Livingston.

Apologies: Councillors D Edwards, McDonald and Skeats.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. REVISION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE FOR THE YEAR 2017/18

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Sub-Committee to consider whether to recommend an increase in hackney carriage fares.

The report noted that hackney carriages fares had last been reviewed by the Sub-Committee on 4 June 2014 (Minute 44 refers). The Sub-Committee had approved an increase to the flag drop for both tariff 1 and 2 from the current £2.20 (tariff 1) and £3.20 (tariff 2) to £2.40 (tariff 1) and £3.40 (tariff 2). The current and proposed table of fares for 2017/18 was attached to the report at Appendix I. An email from Reading Taxi Association containing the proposed changes and tariff proposal was attached to the report at Appendix II. The National Fares Table was attached to the report at Appendix III.

The report explained that the Reading Taxi Association (RTA) had submitted a proposal for an increase in fares. The proposal was for an increase to the flag drop for both tariff 1 and 2 from the current £2.40 (tariff 1) and £3.40 (tariff 2) to £2.60 (tariff 1) and £3.60 (tariff 2). The flag drop was the starting amount shown on the taxi meter when a passenger agreed to take a taxi. This increase equated to an increase of 1.89% for tariff 1 and 1.71% for tariff 2, giving an overall increase of 1.80%.

Ali Sheikh, Vice-Chairman of the RTA, attended the meeting and addressed the Sub-Committee on the proposals.

Resolved -

That the Head of Planning, Development and Regulatory Services be recommended to approve the proposed increase subject to no objections being received as a result of advertising the proposed increase in a local newspaper.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved -

That, pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), members of the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following items of business as it was likely that there would be disclosures of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act.

7. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE (SCHOOL TRANSPORT) VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE - MS SCHOOL TRANSPORT & WHEELCHAIR, PROSPECT MEWS, READING

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report on an application by EA and MW for the grant of a private hire (school transport) vehicle operator's licence in respect of MS School Transport & Wheelchair, Prospect Mews, Reading, RG1 7YJ.

A summary of the circumstances of the case was appended to the report.

The applicant, EA, was present at the meeting. He was accompanied by his wife, both of whom addressed the Sub-Committee. The applicant MW was not present.

Resolved -

That the application by EA and MW for the grant of a private hire (school transport) vehicle operator's licence in respect of MS School Transport and Wheelchair be deferred to allow both applicants to attend.

8. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT, RENEWAL, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER LICENCES AND APPEALS AGAINST ALLOCATION OF PENALTY POINTS ON PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCES

The Director of Environment and Neighbourhood Services submitted a report asking the Sub-Committee to consider an application for the grant of a three year private hire vehicle driver's licence and to consider the refusal of an application for the grant of a three year private hire vehicle driver's licence.

A summary of the circumstances of the case was appended to the report.

The applicants were both present at the meeting and addressed the Sub-Committee.

Resolved -

- (1) That the application by UA for the grant of a three year private hire vehicle driver's licence be refused due to him not being considered a fit and proper person by reason of:
 - (a) the nature of the offences, as detailed in the report;
 - (b) insufficient time had elapsed since his convictions for some offences, as detailed in the report;
 - (c) his disqualification from driving had limited his driving experience;
 - (d) his failure to declare all convictions on the application form;
 - (e) concerns over his honesty, which is required for a private hire driver dealing with members of the public;
- (2) That the application by SH for the grant of a three year private hire vehicle driver's licence be refused due to him not being considered a fit and proper person by reason of:

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- (a) the nature of the offences, as detailed in the report;
- (b) insufficient time had elapsed since his convictions for some offences, as detailed in the report;
- (c) his breaches of licence conditions, traffic regulations and legislation, as detailed in the report;
- (d) his failure to undergo and pass a drug strand hair test within the specified timescale, as required by the Sub-Committee's decision of 10 May 2017.

(Exempt information as defined in paragraph 1, 2, 3 and 5)

(The meeting started at 6.34pm and closed at 8.50pm)