

LICENSING, HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24 May 2017

Present: Councillor WJ Davies (Chair)

Councillors	RL Abbey	A Hodson
	C Meaden	L Rowlands
	P Stuart	D Mitchell
	J McManus	

Deputy: Councillor S Williams (In place of T Anderson)

1 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were requested to declare whether they had any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests in connection with any item on the agenda and if so and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

2 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2017, be approved.

3 APPOINTMENT OF THE LICENSING PANEL

The Assistant Director of Law and Governance reported that Standing Order 33(1) required that Committees should keep the need for panels under review and, in particular, the position must be reviewed at the first meeting of a Committee in each municipal year.

He set out the terms of reference of the Licensing Panel and indicated that if it was to be retained in 2017/18 with seven members, the allocation of those places would be 4 Labour, 2 Conservative and 1 Liberal Democrat.

He reported that only named deputies may attend panel meetings in place of a permanent member. Standing Order 25(6)(a) permits appointment of up to a maximum of eight deputies for each political group and deputies would normally be called to serve in the order in which they are nominated.

Unless appointed as full members, the Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the three largest political groups represented on the Council are entitled to attend meetings of all Committees, Sub-Committees and Panels, with the right to speak at the Chair's invitation, but not to vote (Standing Order 25(5) refers).

Resolved –

(1) That the Licensing Panel be re-appointed for 2017/2018 with the terms of reference identified until amended or otherwise changed by the Committee and until such time as a new Panel is appointed.

(2) That the following members be appointed to serve on the Licensing Panel in 2017/2018:-

	<u>Members</u>	<u>Deputies</u>
4 Labour Councillors	Bill Davies (Chair) Ron Abbey Chris Meaden Paul Stuart	George Davies Adrian Jones Julie McManus Christina Muspratt Anita Leech Jean Stapleton Irene Williams Mike Sullivan
2 Conservative Councillors	Andrew Hodson (s) David Burgess-Joyce	Steve Williams Les Rowlands David Elderton Gerry Ellis John Hale Cherry Povall Eddie Boulton Geoffrey Watt
1 Liberal Democrat Councillor	Dave Mitchell (s)	Alan Brighthouse Phil Gilchrist Christopher Carubia Stuart Kelly

4 **PERIODIC REVIEW OF LICENSING FEES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS AND VEHICLES, AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATORS**

The Managing Director for Delivery reported upon a representation that had been received regarding the proposed increase in licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences.

The Licensing Manager reported that a review of the fees for Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences had been undertaken and it had been identified that the projected income received for the financial year 2016-2017 would not cover the costs of delivering the service. Members had therefore resolved to approve an increase in licence fees at their meeting held on 22 March 2017 subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

The Licensing Manager advised that a representation had been received from Unite the Union and Mr D Cummins was in attendance to outline his representations.

Mr D Cummins addressed the Committee and raised his objections to the proposed increase in taxi licensing fees. He expressed his concerns in respect of the

consultation that had been carried out and his objections to the proposed increase in the fees which he believed were disproportionate.

The Licensing Manager referred to the consultation which had been undertaken in accordance with the statutory requirements, gave assurances in respect of being transparent with the trade and referred to the on line scheme which they had signed up to in order that they receive notifications of meetings. She also reported that the proposed increase was the result of a budget deficit that had been identified in respect of the income received from licences and the cost of providing the service.

Members noted the concerns raised by Mr Cummins on behalf of the taxi trade, however had regard to the requirement to recover costs in order to provide the service and made reference to the fact that the fees would be reviewed annually.

It was moved by Councillor R Abbey and seconded by Councillor A Hodson that –

“The licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved with effect from 1 June 2017.”

Resolved – That the licence fees in respect of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and Operator Licences as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved with effect from 1 June 2017.