

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**PRESENT –** *Councillor John Wright, (in the Chair) Fazal, Casey, Gee, Pearson, Davies, Hussain, I., Hussain, S and Brookfield.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**1 Welcome and Apologies**

The chair welcomed members to the meeting and received apologies from Councillors Ali, Humphrys and McFall.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016 were submitted.

**RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th February 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed as a correct record

**3. Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Environment and Leisure informing them of the recent trade consultations concerning the commissioning of a new unmet demand study. The Committee were aware the Council currently has a policy of restricting the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences. When licence plates are restricted in this way the local authority must conduct regular unmet demand surveys to ensure the restriction is not adversely affecting the public across a range of hours. In order to provide evidence, it is necessary to commission an independent survey to assess the level of demand. Such surveys must be conducted by companies specialising in this area of work. The Department of Transport guidance states these surveys should be undertaken every 3 years.

Following the recommendation of the Licensing Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February to undertake a consultation with all of the hackney carriage vehicle proprietors and the private hire operators, this was undertaken in June /July. There were 22 responses in total, with the responses split 50/50. 11 vehicle owners wanting a survey to be commissioned and 11 stating the council should delimit. The issue was discussed at the Taxi Forum meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016 where trade representatives from both hackney carriage associations stated that they wished the Council to commission a further unmet demand study.

The Committee were informed that the review would cost less this time as much of the ground work had been done previously and remained the same.

**RESOLVED-** That the report be noted and a report be commissioned to conduct an unmet demand survey, paid for by the Hackney Carriage trade.

**4. Taxi Licensing Policy.**

The Committee considered a report seeking members' views for the approval to formally consult on a proposed Taxi Licensing Policy, and an adequate time frame for the duration of the consultation. The Committee were informed that there is no statutory requirement for local authorities to set hackney carriage and private hire policies. Local authorities were however entitled to adopt such policies as they are integral parts of the decision making process. A policy guides, but does not bind a local authority.

The Council has a set number of policies and conditions, at present these are not contained within one formal document. Policies and conditions currently agreed are only available within Committee reports and minutes, with relevant policies and all conditions being available in guidance notes to new applicants and the existing licensed trade. There were a number of issues that needed to be addressed in the policy document including safeguarding training for existing drivers and consideration of the introduction of a new operating licence for Executive/Chauffer Businesses. The Committee were informed that a draft policy would be made available to members prior to the commencement of the consultation. The consultation period would run from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 for eight weeks and to enable reporting back to the Committee the date of the next meeting would need postponing until 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

**RESOLVED-** 1. That the report be noted and approved for formal consultation for a period of eight weeks commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

2. That the date of the next meeting of the Committee be put back to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 to enable the full findings of the consultation to be reported back to the Committee as soon as possible.

**5. Exclusion of Press and Public**

**RESOLVED –** That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in view of the fact that the business to be transacted was exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 contained in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**6. Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees**

The Sub-Committee received the proceeding of the following Sub Committees-

General Licensing Sub Committee, 16<sup>th</sup> February 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 12<sup>th</sup> April 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2016  
General Licensing Sub Committee, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

**RESOLVED-** that the proceedings of the Sub Committees as outlined above be approved.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....