

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the proceedings at a meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee held in the Bindloss Room, Kendal Town Hall, on Tuesday, 7 June 2016, at 2.00 p.m.

Present

Councillors

Sheila Eccles (Chairman)

Rupert Audland
Philip Dixon

John Holmes
Helen Irving

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Clough, David Evans, Clare Feeney-Johnson and Mel Mackie.

Officers

Matthew Neal
Hardeep Burnley
Paul Rogers

Solicitor to the Council
Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer
Assistant Committee Services Officer

LR/1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

RESOLVED – That the Terms of Reference for the Licensing Regulatory Committee be noted.

LR/2 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the Chairman be authorised to sign, as a correct record, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 19 January 2016.

LR/3 MINUTES OF LICENSING REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of meetings of the Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committees held on 15 February and 27 April 2016 be received and the Chairmen of the relevant Sub-Committees be authorised to sign, as correct records.

LR/4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no declarations of interest were made.

LR/5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUDED ITEMS

RESOLVED - That it be noted that there are no excluded items on the Agenda.

LR/6 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

RESOLVED – That it be noted that no questions, representations, deputations or petitions had been received.

LR/7 PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer presented a report which requested the Committee to determine whether to vary the maximum fares that may be charged by hackney carriage proprietors during the period 2016 to 2017. She emphasised that this Council's current tariff rates were higher than any of the other councils in Cumbria.

The Committee noted the canvassing exercise carried out with the taxi trade and the three proposals with regard to fare tariffs which had been put forward for consideration by the trade as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report. Members also noted that out of approximately 210 taxi trade proprietors approached for their views on the proposals, only 29 had indicated a preference and none of the proposals had received overwhelming support.

RESOLVED – That there be no modification to the maximum fares that may be charged by hackney carriage proprietors as set out in the report as proposal 1.

LR/8 FREQUENCY OF REVIEW FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Principal Food, Licensing and Safety Officer presented a report which requested the Committee to give authority to the Director People and Places to undertake a review of hackney carriage fares as and when requested by the trade rather than on an annual basis which had been the practice since 2007. She referred to the high cost of the annual review of fares estimated to be in the region of £10,000 per year. She emphasised that the time and resources needed to carry out a taxi fare review on an annual basis was not sustainable or an effective use of resources, particularly as the cost of the review was not currently retrieved via the licensing fees.

RESOLVED – That the Director People and Places be given delegated authority to undertake a review of the hackney carriage fares every four years or as and when requested by a representative of the trade.

The meeting ended at 2.28 p.m.