MINUTES OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE
8 SEPTEMBER 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors Miss Lawrence (Chairman), Mrs A'Barrow, Mrs Avis, Birkett, Mrs Bragg, Cade, Dodd, Mrs Nash, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Roodhouse, Mrs Simpson-Vince, Srivastava, Ms Watson-Merret and Dr Williams

23. MINUTES

The minutes of the:

Licensing and Safety Committee held on 7 July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman;

Special Licensing and Safety Committee held on 27 July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman; and

Licensing Sub-Committee (Alcohol and Regulated Entertainment) held on 20 August 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

24. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillor Mrs Garcia.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

26. REVIEW OF TAXI LICENCE FEES FOR DUAL DRIVER AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR LICENCES

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services (Part 1 - agenda item 4) concerning the proposed fees and one consultation response.

At its meeting on 7 July 2015 the Committee approved the proposed fees for consultation. The proposed fees were published in a local newspaper and on the council website and were also displayed at the Town Hall.

The consultation period ended on 14 August 2015 and only one written response was received prior to that date raising a number of points which had been answered by the Regulatory Services Manager in his reply to the respondent.

The Committee considered the consultation response and the subsequent reply to this by the Regulatory Services Manager.
The Committee noted that no formal response from the local taxi trade body (RHODA) had been received, though the topic was raised at a recent meeting of the Taxi Forum.

RESOLVED THAT –

(1) the written response to the Consultation for revised dual driver and private hire operator licence fees be noted; and

(2) the Head of Environmental Services, who is responsible for setting licence fees, be authorised to finalise the process.

27. UPDATE ON DEREGULATION

The Public Health and Licensing Team Leader gave the committee an update on the number of hackney carriage proprietor licences issued.

The Committee were informed that 59 hackney carriage proprietor licences had been issued since full deregulation came into force. The overall total was now 115, which included 56 licences that were issued prior to deregulation.

The breakdown of new licences issued since full deregulation was as follows:

2013/14 – 35
2014/15 – 16
2015/16 – 8 (so far this municipal year)

RESOLVED THAT - The Public Health and Licensing Team Leader be thanked for his report.

28. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC UNDER SECTION 100(A)(4) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

RESOLVED THAT - under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of information defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

29. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A DUAL DRIVER’S LICENCE

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services (Part 2 - agenda item 1) concerning an application for a Dual Driver’s Licence.

The applicant was present and addressed the committee.

RESOLVED THAT – the application for the grant of a Dual Driver’s Licence be refused.