MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TAXI AND OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, NELSON ON 19th JUNE, 2018

PRESENT -

Councillors

M. Arshad

J. Cooney (Substitute)

M. Goulthorp (Substitute)

M. Horsfield (Substitute)

M. Igbal

B. Newman

Officers in attendance:

Howard Culshaw Head of Legal Services
Jackie Allen Taxi Licensing Manager
Sarah Waterworth Committee Administrator

(Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Nadeem Ahmed, Nawaz Ahmed, N. Butterworth and J. Nixon).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor J. Cooney was appointed Chairman for the meeting.

Councillor J. Cooney (Chairman – in the chair)

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor N. Butterworth be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2018/19.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the Declaration of Interests.

4. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(1) Mr. Ilyas asked for an update regarding the new hackney carriage ranks in Nelson and Barrowford and what was happening regarding private hire taxis touting for business.

Mr. Ilyas was informed that Nelson Committee had agreed to change the rank outside HSBC to 24 hours and an advert had been posted in the local press. If no objections were

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received then the changes would go ahead. With regards the rank outside the Lounge in Barrowford, it was reported that Barrowford and Western Parishes Committee were not in favour of this location due to problems regarding touting for business and therefore another location was being considered.

Mr. Ilyas was also informed that the Taxi Licensing Department were working with the Police to tackle the issues around touting for trade.

- (2) Mr. Akram and Mr. Saeed complained about the poor condition of the roads and asked what was being done about them and said that the spot checks should be abandoned until the roads had been repaired.
 - They were advised that Lancashire County Council (LCC) were responsible for the highways and work was ongoing to repair the roads. The trade were encouraged to report any issues direct to the County. This could be done by completing a complaints form which was available on the County's website www.lancashire.gov.uk
- (3) Mr. Hussain asked why there was no information on the agenda from the working group meeting regarding the age limit of vehicles.

It was explained that under the new administration of the Council a new suggestion had come forward and the trade were to be consulted on this in August 2018. As this was a change in policy it would go direct to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Taxi and Other Licensing Committee meeting held on 21st March, 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. RESULTS OF APPEALS/PROSECUTIONS

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted, for information, a report on decisions and pending appeals/prosecutions since the last meeting.

7. RESULTS OF A SPOT CHECK

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager reported that a joint spot check on licensed vehicles was carried out during the day of 20th March, 2018 at Norfolk Street Garage, Nelson with the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA). Sixteen vehicles were tested with nine taken off the road for mechanical and other faults. A list of vehicles tested was submitted to the Committee.

8. CONTRACT FOR THE TESTING OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES AND HACKNEY CARRIAGES

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report advising that the garage contract for the testing of licensed vehicles would expire on 30th June, 2018. As a result an advert had been placed in the local press for expressions of interest in the testing of

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licensed vehicles. Three expressions of interest had been received and the relevant tender documents sent out.

Three tenders were received from garages that were already carrying out testing of licensed vehicles.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the cut-off date for expressions of interest in the testing of licensed vehicles be extended to 30th August, 2018 and a further advert be place in the local press and information posted on the Council's website.
- (2) That the current garage contracts be extended to 30th September, 2018.

REASON

- (1) To encourage more garages to express an interest.
- (2) To extend the contracts until the end of the consultation period and new contracts were awarded.

9. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the grounds that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

10. INTERVIEWS

(1) Report of AA

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report in respect of AA.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the existing joint operator's licence be revoked.
- (2) That AA be granted a new private hire operator's licence.

(2) Report of AA

The Planning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report in respect of AA.

RESOLVED

(1) That AA be granted a private hire operator's licence.

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(2)	That RA is not to be a partner or shareholder in the business.
(3)	Report of SAA
The P SAA.	lanning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report in respect of
RESOLVED	
That the application be deferred to the next meeting for further information.	
(4)	Report of WA
The P WA.	lanning, Building Control and Licensing Services Manager submitted a report in respect of
RESOLVED	
(1)	That the suspension on WA's private hire and hackney carriage drivers licence be lifted.
(2)	That 10 Penalty Points be added to WA's licence.
Chairman	
Chairr	man