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SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)

Day: Tuesday
Date: 26 January 2016
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Lesser Hall - Dukinfield Town Hall

Item No.	AGENDA	Page No
1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE To receive any apologies for the meeting from Members of the Panel.	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive any declarations of interest from Members of the Panel.	
3.	MINUTES The Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Speakers' Panel (Licensing) held on 24 November 2015, having been circulated, to be signed by the Chair as a correct record.	1 - 2
4.	UPDATE ON THE TAXI DISPUTE The Panel to receive a verbal update from the Licensing Manager on the October 2015 taxi dispute.	
5.	EXEMPT ITEMS That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, because disclosure of the personal information contained in the reports would not be fair to the license holder and would therefore be in breach of Data Protection principles.	
6.	APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - 1/2016 To consider a report of the Assistant Executive Director - Environmental Services.	3 - 26
7.	URGENT ITEMS To consider any items which the Chair is of the opinion shall be considered as a matter of urgency	

From: Democratic Services Unit – any further information may be obtained from the reporting officer or from Charlotte Forrest on charlotte.forrest@tameside.gov.uk or 0161 342 2346, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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Agenda Item 3.

SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)

Tuesday, 24 November 2015

Commenced: 9.30 am

Terminated: 12.30 pm

Present: Councillors Bray (Chair), Beeley, Downs, F Travis and Wild

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Reid, Fowler, Kinsey, D Lane and Sidebottom

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

21. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Speakers Panel (Licensing) meeting held on 19 October 2015 were approved and signed as a correct record.

22. UPDATE ON THE RECENT TAXI DISPUTE

The Licensing Manager provided a verbal report to the Panel on the recent taxi dispute in Tameside.

It was reported that on the 13 and 23 October 2015 local taxi drivers staged a protest on the borough's roads due to a number of issues including the vehicle age policy, the test, fares, MOT's and freedom of information requests.

The Licensing Manager informed the Panel that he had not formally been made aware of the planned protest or the reasons for it but once notified a meeting was arranged to discuss driver's issues. A number of minor issues were resolved and it was confirmed that although taxis were legally exempt from MOT's, due to having frequent compliance tests, this was causing driver's problems when they were purchasing insurance online. Therefore it was agreed that MOT's would be made available from January 2016.

The Panel heard that taxi drivers were also asking for a lower age limit policy for vehicles. It was confirmed that the age of new vehicles entering a fleet was five years old and taxi drivers were requesting this be raised to seven years old. Existing private hire vehicles could be up to ten years old and wheelchair friendly vehicles could be up to 15 years old. It was agreed that policies would be reviewed and a report would be brought to a future Panel meeting.

Other issues raised included inconsistencies in the way vehicles were tested at different garages across the borough, fees and variations with meters and fares charged. It was confirmed that all freedom of information requests had been responded to.

It was agreed that the Licensing Manager provide an update on the situation to the Panel at their next meeting.

RESOLVED:
That the update be noted.

23. TRAINING/LEGISLATION UPDATE

James Button, of James Button & Co Solicitors, provided a training session for Members on taxi licensing.

24. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at the meeting.

CHAIR

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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