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SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)

Day: Tuesday
Date: 15 March 2022
Time: 10.00 am
Place: Committee Room 1 - Tameside One

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 18 January 2022 to be approved as a correct record.	1 - 2
4.	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.	
5.	REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - 5/2021 To consider a report of the Regulatory Services Manager.	3 - 26
6.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING To note that the provisional date of the next meeting of the Speakers Panel (Licensing) is scheduled for 14 June 2022.	
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, Senior Democratic Services Officer on 0161 342 2346 or charlotte.forrest@tameside.gov.uk, to whom any apologies for absence should be notified.

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Agenda Item 3.

SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)

18 January 2022

Commenced: 10.00 am

Terminated: 10.30 am

Present: Councillors Taylor (Chair), Quinn (Deputy Chair), Cartey, Lane, Lewis, North, Sweeton and Chadwick

In Attendance: Mike Robinson Regulatory Services Manager (Licensing)
Rifat Iqbal Legal Representative – as an observer
Ashleigh Melia Legal Representative

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Jackson and T Sharif

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the Speakers Panel (Licensing) meeting held on 16 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

19. APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods submitted a report requesting that the Panel note the proposal to consult on an application for a variation of Hackney Carriage fares in accordance with the provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The Regulatory Services Manager reported that the current Hackney Carriage fares were last reviewed in January 2018 – a copy of the current table of fares was appended to the report. A request had been received in November 2021 from the Tameside Owners and Drivers Association for a variation of the fare structure.

The Panel were notified that an informal consultation had been undertaken with the 148 Hackney Carriages that were licensed by the Council and 37 letters had been submitted that supported the variation and two letters opposed the application. A comparison of the current and proposed tariffs was attached to the report detailing the impact of the proposed changes. The consultation procedure was also detailed in the report.

John Vickerstaff and Asam Mehdi, Tameside Owners and Drivers Association, attended the meeting and outlined the reasons for the request for a variation of the fare structure. They explained that there had been a significant increase in the cost of living, and rises in insurance, road tax, running costs and the price of a Hackney Carriage. The Tameside Owners and Drivers Association fully supported the minimum licensing standards and wanted to see high and improving standards, which included investment in newer models and electric vehicles, both of which involved substantial costs. In addition, figures from the Department for Transport revealed that there had been a 22% reduction in the number of Tameside drivers over the previous two years. Although some of the reduction could be attributed to the effects of the pandemic, the rising costs that had been outlined had resulted in a reduction in 'take home pay'. The Tameside Owners and Drivers Association were

concerned that if Tameside continued to lose drivers the current level of service would not be sustainable.

In response to questions, it was confirmed that electric charging points located around Greater Manchester were now chargeable and although the Trade had been promised a reduced rate, it was yet to be implemented. Members enquired if consideration had been given to amending the time brackets of the day and night-time tariffs. The Tameside Owners and Drivers Association representatives responded that this had been considered following a benchmarking exercise with other Local Authorities in addition to a consultation with drivers but it was not supported. It was stated that the cost increases were the same regardless of the hour of the day and it was important to encourage drivers to work during the evening in order to maintain a 24-hour service to the residents of the Borough.

RESOLVED:

That the proposal to consult on the application for a variation of Hackney Carriage fares be noted.

20. URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items.

CHAIR

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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