



Minutes of the Licensing Committee

22 January 2015

-: Present :-

Councillor Addis (Chairman)

Councillors Amil, Bent, Brooksbank, Hytche, Doggett, Ellery and Parrott

10. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Cowell and Tyerman.

11. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 15 May 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12. Results of Unmet Demand Study of Taxis in Torbay 2014

Members considered a report that detailed the outcome of an unmet demand study commissioned by the Council in response to the guidance issued by the Department for Transport. In order to comply with the requirement the Council engaged the services of the Halcrow Group Limited to undertake the study.

Liz Richardson from Halcrow Group Limited advised the Committee that the report highlights the results of the rank observation survey. The rank observation programme covered a period of 252 hours during October 2014, excess supply was experienced during 16% of the hours observed while excess demand was experienced 10% of the hours observed. The rank observation data has also shown the level of demand for taxis at the rank has increased by 17.6%.

The outcome of the survey is that there was no unmet demand.

Halcrow Group Limited were also asked to review and identify methods for increasing the percentage of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV's), they were asked to:

- determine the level of provision of WAV's across the Taxi and Private Hire industry in Torbay;
- determine the demand for WAV's across the Taxi and Private Hire Industry in Torbay; and
- recommend a scheme on how to increase the percentage of WAV's across the Taxi and Private Hire industry in Torbay.

The Halcrow Group Limited recommended that the Council initially advertises on its website and with disability groups, the availability of WAV's in the first instance, the study also suggested other incentives that would require a further piece of work to be undertaken before formal recommendations can be put forward.

Members welcomed the idea of advertising the availability of WAV's on the Council's website and requested when considering policy changes that an aspiration of 20% of the vehicle fleet be WAV's.

Resolved:

- i) that the current quantitative limit of Hackney Carriage licences of 162 full time licences, with seven additional summer only licences be approved;
- ii) that the Environmental Health Manager (Commercial) forward the report to the Executive Head for Residents and Visitors and Senior Service Manager Environmental Policy with a formal request that consideration be given to providing an additional rank on either Kurnow Road or Torbay Road in Paignton and the rank outside Lymington Road Coach Station, Torquay be relocated within the Coach Station itself.
- iii) that a report detailing proposals to deliver a significant increase in the provision of wheelchair accessible vehicles be presented to a future meeting of the Licensing Committee.

13. Decisions taken in relation to Licensing Act 2003 applications under delegated powers

The Committee noted the report that set out the decisions taken in relation to Licensing Act 2003 applications by the Executive Head Community Safety under delegated powers.

14. Decisions taken in relation to Gambling Act 2005 applications under delegated powers

The Committee noted the decisions taken in relation to the Gambling Act 2005 applications in Torbay by the Executive Head Community Safety under delegated powers.

15. Vote of Thanks

The Chairman announced that he would not be re-standing as a Councillor and took the opportunity to thank members of the Licensing Committee for their support and wished them well with their future endeavours.