



LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

FERNELEY ROOM, PARKSIDE, MELTON MOWBRAY

5th December 2013

PRESENT:-

Councillors P. Cumbers, P. Chandler
N. Slater (VC)
M. Barnes (C), J Wyatt

V Clarke (Environmental Protection + Safety Manager),
A Dudley (Lead Enforcement Officer)
G. Barker (minute taker)

L17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from P Baguley and E Holmes.

L18. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the last meeting of the Committee held on 12th November 2013

L19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

L20. REVISIONS TO THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DISCIPLINARY AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY.

Lead Enforcement Officer submitted his report and the purpose of the report was to invite members to consider proposed changes to the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Disciplinary Enforcement Policy.

General discussions took place. Members informed that brand new vehicles were coming into the Fleet. Members also commented on Justine's input and contribution. Members agreed a code was needed and also asked if the public had been consulted. Lead Enforcement Officer informed the Members that information would be available on the Council's web site and in the Melton Times Newspaper.

Consultation papers to be sent out in December and the Police will have an input.

Clarification was needed on some points and typing errors were noted by Lead Enforcement Officer.

The Chair then asked the Members if they were in favour of the recommendations.

All in favour.

L21. PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE PENALTY POINTS SCHEME

The Environmental Protection and Safety Manager submitted her report for the Members to consider the proposal to implement a "Penalty Points Scheme" for all licensed taxi drivers and operators within the Borough of Melton. This approach would sit under the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Disciplinary and Enforcement Policy that appears elsewhere on this agenda.

General discussions took place. The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager stated that if the Members were in favour of this scheme then the papers would be issued before Christmas.

Members agreed – excellent idea.

The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager informed the Members that the scheme was running in Charnwood.

Members brought to The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager's attention typing errors and anomalies in the report. These noted by her.

Chair suggested a meeting with Taxi drivers. The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager and Lead Enforcement Officer to arrange in New Year (end of January).

A Member mentioned that mobile phones were an issue. Taxi driver chatting while driving. Need to ensure hands free facility in vehicles. Drivers can be reported.

The Chair then asked the Members if they were happy with the report and in favour of the recommendations.

All in favour

L22. A.O.B. – ELECTRIC CIGARETTES.

The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager stated that vaporised cigarettes should not be used in a Taxi because it was difficult to differentiate between these and real ones.

The Environmental Protection + Safety Manager then quoted from a report that Legislation quotes – no smoking in vehicles.

Melton Borough Council would relax there rule if Government changes legislation.

P Cumbers stated that she did not see a problem with e-cigarettes.

General discussion took place between the Members and their decision was for Melton Borough Council Hackney carriages and Private Hire policy would extend to include a ban on use of e-cigarettes within licensed vehicles.

The meeting which commenced at 4.30 pm closed at 5.12 pm.