



## RURAL, ECONOMIC & ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

13<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Present:

Councillor T. Beaken, G.E Botterill, T. Culley, L. Higgins, E. Hutchinson (Vice Chairman), J.T Orson (Chairman), J. Simpson.

Strategic Director (CAM), Regulatory Services Manager, Central Services Manager, Solicitor to the Council, Administrative Assistant for Communities and Neighbourhoods.

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### R52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Rhodes, Sheldon, DeBurle and Baguley.

### R53. MINUTES

The public and exempt minutes from the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 were authorised to be signed by the Chairman following the amendment below;

R37: A member stated the benefit of the 3-5 year license and that this positive result shows that the Council wants to reduce the burden on taxi drivers in Melton, wants a reduction in 'red tape' and a reduction in costs on an annualised basis.

A Member asked for an update on R38 of the minutes regarding the Blue lantern ornamental lighting on Burton Street and R40 regarding response from Biffa.

The Strategic Director stated that a reply regarding the ornamental lighting would be circulated to Members. The Head of Regulatory Services stated that a response has been received from Biffa but had not been received in time for inclusion in these committee papers for an update.

The adhoc minutes from the 1<sup>st</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015 were authorised to be signed by the chairman.

### R54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Orson declared a personal interest in any item relating to the County Council by virtue of him being a County Councillor.

R55. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

There were no recommendations from other committees.

R56. UPDATE ON DECISIONS

The update on decisions was noted by the committee.

R57. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report to invite Members to consider and approve a new Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy.

The Head of Regulatory Services outlined the recommendations and drew Members attention to the appendix and the changes in policy highlighted in yellow.

Discussion took place in relation to Appendix B1 para 3 regarding female drivers dress code and it was agreed that this paragraph should be removed from the policy as suggested by the licensing committee.

A member stated the importance of encouraging drivers to take safety awareness courses and encouraged officers to find suitable wording to this affect to add into the policy.

The Head of Regulatory Services stated that a report will come back to this committee after the consultation period.

**RESOLVED** that the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy be agreed subject to the amendment above, prior to the formal consultation process.

R58. FEES FOR TAXI LICENCES 2015-16- CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

The Head of Regulatory Services presented a report asking Members to consider the objections received in respect of proposals to increase taxi licences that were considered by the Committee on the 4th November 2015.

The Head of Regulatory Services explained that although the fees had been set in November 2015, the decision had attracted more objections after the fees were re-advertised.

The Head of Regulatory Services drew Members attention to para 3.2 which set out the main grounds for the objections.

Members attention was drawn to the table at 11.1 and in particular the paragraph relating to accounting practice.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraphs 1 and 2.

The meeting resumed open session.

A member stated that the recommended charge gives the license holders a significant saving over 3 years and greater still over 5 years. Members showed support of the recommendations because of the 3 and 5 year licenses being a reduction in costs and an average annual saving.

A member proposed that a recommendation be moved stating that Members note the annualised reduction on the 3-5 year license. This was seconded by a Member.

**RESOLVED** that

- 1) the level of fees be agreed in accordance with its resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015, as set out in the Appendix A to the report with effect from the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- 2) that accounting procedures following the approach described by the objectors be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for the current year, and that the approach suggested in the objection be used in future years.
- 3) The annualised reduction on the 3-5 year licenses be noted by Members.

1 Member abstained from voting.

## **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that the Public be excluded during the consideration of the following item(s) of business in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Access to Information: Exempt Information under Paragraphs 1 and 2.

### R59. **URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chairman, in exercising his statutory powers, agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency due to the issue being raised following despatch of the agenda.

#### **CATTLE MARKET- AGREEMENT WITH MARKET PARTNERS- INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS.**

The Strategic Director presented a report to request Members approval for an

amendment to the agreed interim arrangement for managing the cattle market that had previously been approved by this committee.

**RESOLVED** that the recommendation be approved

The meeting that started at 6:30pm finished at 7:23pm.

Chairman