

CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 26TH APRIL, 2007

Present – Councillors Morris (Chairman), Darvesh, Kay (as deputy for Councillor Adia) and Mrs. Ronson.

Also in Attendance

| | | |
|---------------|---|---|
| Mr. D. Grogan | - | Assistant Director, Democratic Services |
| Mr. A. Fisher | - | Group Manager (Licensing) |
| Mrs. V. Ridge | - | Principal Democratic Services Officer |

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Adia and Sherrington.

Councillor Morris in the Chair.

17. MINUTES

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Policy Development Group held on 27th March, 2007 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

18. REVIEW OF BODYWORK STANDARDS – PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report which put forward proposals as part of the review of the current bodywork standards which applied to private hire and hackney carriage vehicles.

Members were reminded that the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 made provision for a District Council to inspect and test a vehicle upon application or renewal of a private hire (PHV) or hackney carriage vehicle licence (HCV). At Bolton Council the inspection and testing regime included the interior/exterior of the vehicle and the overall appearance.

It was stated that new bodywork standards were adopted in September, 2001 and a copy of these were appended to the report. However, the Taxi Scrutiny Panel on 10th October, 2006 agreed that a thorough review of taxi-testing regime be undertaken with a view to striking a more appropriate balance between safety and appearance. This review was to include the taxi consultative panel vehicle testers and the bodywork repair trade.

In terms of progressing the review, in November, 2006, the trade representatives requested that the matter of bodywork standards be deferred to allow for research and development of the new standard. In December, 2006

the trade representatives agreed to approach their bodywork specialist and the relevant members of their associations to further the development of the new standards.

Consequently, a draft proposal was submitted in January, 2007 on behalf of the Bolton Hackney Association and the Private Hire Association and this was detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. Subsequent to this, the trade representatives, at a meeting on 1st March, 2007, requested that amendments to the current Bolton Council Bodywork standards be submitted.

Members were also advised that in relation to the draft proposal, detailed in Appendix 2, the Bolton Hackney Association had indicated that they still wished this to be considered.

Details of the proposed amendments were highlighted in the report and these related to the following, viz:-

- (a) general;
- (b) paint work;
- (c) gloss finish;
- (d) poor workmanship;
- (e) cosmetic damage;
- (f) small dents;
- (g) rust sports;
- (h) flaking;
- (i) stone chips; and
- (j) appeals

Members were of the opinion that the amendments proposed in the report were acceptable with the following exceptions, viz:-

- poor workmanship – this should include the wording ‘where these are visible in normal light conditions; and
- small dents – the size of the dent should be increased to 10mm.

Members were advised that the proposals had been considered by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Consultative Panel at its meeting on 28th

March, 2007, however, an agreement on the proposed amendments was unable to be reached. Members were of the opinion, though, that any standards should involve some flexibility and whatever was adopted should not result in the condition of the vehicles being lowered.

It was agreed that the proposals , together with the suggested amendments, be submitted to the Executive Member for Corporate Strategy and Finance for approval.

(The meeting started at 2.00 p.m. and finished at 2.45 p.m.)