

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND WASTE POLICY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

MEETING, 3RD FEBRUARY 2015

Present – Councillors Irving (Chairman), Allen, Chadwick, Darvesh, Peel, Sherrington and A. S. Walsh.

Augmented by members of the Licensing and Environmental Regulation Committee for minute 6, viz-

Councillors D. Burrows, Haslam and Haworth.

Officers

Ms. S. Schofield	Assistant Director Neighbourhood and Regulatory Services
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	Principal Democratic Services Officer

Councillor Irving in the Chair

An apology for absence was tabled by Councillor Connell.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Environment and Housing Policy Development Group held on 10th September, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

6. PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTING A POLICY OF NO CATEGORY C VEHICLES PERMITTED AND A POLICY FOR CATEGORY D VEHICLES TO BE LICENSED AS HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which asked members to consider and comment upon proposals to implement a policy of no Category C vehicles permitted to be licensed as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and a policy regarding Category D vehicles permitted to be licensed as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles by Bolton Council.

By way of background information members were advised that the Council did not allow Category A and B vehicles to be used as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicles.

All Category D vehicles intended to be used as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage vehicle were currently required to have had a wheel alignment check carried out before they would be licensed.

All Category C vehicles which were intended to be used as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage Vehicle were required to have passed a VIC (Vehicle Identity Check) from VOSA and must have a signed and dated certificate stating the vehicle had passed an independent examination of the repairs to confirm its roadworthiness to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.

The report referred to matters concerning the views of the Trades.

Members were advised that in an effort to increase the quality and roadworthiness of vehicles used as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles and to try to ensure public safety, it was proposed to introduce a policy of no new Category C vehicles being licensed as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles by Bolton Council.

The report went on to refer to three options with option two being the preferred one.

Members were also notified that in an effort to increase the quality and roadworthiness of vehicles used as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles and to try to ensure public safety, it was proposed to introduce a policy regarding Category D vehicles being licensed as Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles by Bolton Council.

The report went on to refer to two options.

In conclusion the report also indicated matters around the policies of other local authorities in this regard.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- matters around a vehicles structural integrity;
- option two for category c vehicles but with w time limit;
- matters around a vehicle becoming a category c vehicle during the year and being taken off the road;
- vehicles being patched up and the avoidance of category C;
- issues of safety;
- the views of Trades;
- age restriction policies; and
- category D and the detail of the damage.

It was agreed that the Executive Cabinet Member for Environmental Services be recommended to agree that –

- (i) In relation to category C vehicles no new Category C vehicles to be allowed to be licensed as private hire or hackney carriage vehicles. Currently licensed Category C vehicles allowed on renewal. Any Category C vehicles where the license lapses will not be renewed and allowed back on the fleet as it becomes a new application. Existing licensed vehicles which become category C during the period of the current licence will not be renewed; and
- (ii) In relation to category D vehicles it would be required that every Category D vehicle to have passed a VIC (Vehicle Identity Check) from VOSA and have a signed and dated certificate stating the vehicle has passed an independent examination of the repairs to confirm its roadworthiness to the satisfaction of the Licensing Authority.

(The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 6.00pm)