

## **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE (TRAFFIC MATTERS)**

MEETING, 24th JUNE, 2014

Present – Councillors Jones (Chairman), D. Burrows, L. Byrne, Haslam and Wild.

An apology for absence was submitted by Councillor Evans.

Councillor Jones in the Chair.

### **1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 were submitted and signed as a correct record.

### **2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved – That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in paragraph 3 (financial and business affairs) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act; and that it be deemed that, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in its exemption outweighs the public interest in its disclosure.

### **3. MISCONDUCT BY LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS**

The Director of Environmental Services submitted a report which provided details of seven drivers who had been convicted of offences during the period of their licences.

The drivers in relation to reports, LERSC/05/14 (a), LERSC/05/14 (b), LERSC/05/14 (c), LERSC/05/14 (d) and LERSC/05/14 (f) attended the meeting.

Resolved – (i) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (a) no further action be taken regarding the licence to drive a private hire vehicle but a warning letter be issued reminding the driver that mobile phones should not be used even when a vehicle is parked up with the engine running.

(ii) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (b) no further action be taken regarding the licence to drive a private hire vehicle but a warning letter be issued regarding the need to report convictions on time in accordance with the conditions of the driver's licence.

(iii) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (c) the licence to drive a private hire vehicle be suspended for a period of one week on the basis that the Sub-Committee are not satisfied that he is a fit and proper person to hold a licence at this time.

In coming to its decision the Sub-Committee was mindful of its duty to protect the public and the offences from November, 2013 were intermediate traffic offences under the Council's Policy. Drivers have a duty to ensure that their vehicles are maintained properly and use of a vehicle with defective tyres can be a serious danger to the public. The Sub –Committee also recommended that the driver familiarised himself with the law in terms of the legal tread limit.

There is reasonable cause to suspend the driver's licence as a warning and a deterrent.

(iv) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (d) the licence to drive a private hire vehicle be suspended for a period of four weeks on the basis that the Sub-Committee are not satisfied that he is a fit and proper person to hold a licence at this time.

In coming to its decision the Sub-Committee was mindful of its duty to protect the public and the offence of speeding from August 2013 and the offence of using a vehicle with defective tyres from November, 2013 were minor and intermediate traffic

offences respectively under the Council's Policy. The Sub Committee were concerned that the driver had admitted to driving at 41 mph in a 30 mph zone, whilst working as a taxi driver and that the tyre of the vehicle was almost bald. Drivers have a duty to keep to the speed limits and to ensure that their vehicles are maintained properly and use of a vehicle with defective tyres can be a serious danger to the public. The driver also failed to declare the first offence in accordance with the conditions of his licence.

There is reasonable cause to suspend the driver's licence as a warning and a deterrent.

(v) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (e) consideration of this matter be deferred until a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

(vi) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (f) no further action be taken regarding the licence to drive a private hire vehicle but a warning letter be issued reminding the driver of the need to keep to the statutory speed limits.

(vii) That in respect of report numbered LERSC/05/14 (g) consideration of this matter be deferred until a future meeting of this Sub-Committee.

(The meeting started at 5.30pm and finished at 6.31pm)