

LICENSING COMMITTEE

9th June 2011

Present: Councillors: Peter Burgess, George Cockman, Christine Costin, Helena Croft, Brian Donnelly, Gordon Lindsay, Chris Mason, Christian Mitchell, Josh Murphy, Sue Rogers, Jim Sanson, David Skipp

Apologies: Councillors: David Coldwell, Leonard Crosbie, David Jenkins

Also present: Councillor Claire Vickers

LI/1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Christian Mitchell be elected Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Council year.

LI/2 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED

That Councillor Jim Sanson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing Council year.

LI/3 **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2011 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

LI/4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

LI/5 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

LI/6 **INTRODUCTION OF DRIVER AND VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY CHECK FOR LICENSED DRIVERS**

The Head of Planning & Environmental Services reported that, at present, when drivers applied for or renewed their hackney carriage or private hire driver licences, the Council's policy required sight of the applicant's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) driver licence and counterpart, which was taken at face value and no other checks were made with the DVLA.

LI/6 Introduction of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency Check for Licensed Drivers (cont.)

An on-line web based system was now available, the 'Data Check' system by Intelligent Data Systems (IDS), which would enable the Council to check electronically all drivers' details. The IDS system would provide guaranteed up to date information within 48 hours of a search and therefore should not delay the licensing process. It was proposed that the applicants would bear the cost of the check, which would be £5.75 per check.

Once an applicant/licensee had signed the mandate, the Council would have authorised access to individual records for three years.

It was considered that the new system would benefit existing drivers as they would no longer have to attend the Council's offices in order to renew their hackney carriage/private hire driver licence.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the use of the electronic checking system provided by Intelligent Data Systems be approved and the policy in respect of checking driving licences be amended accordingly.
- (ii) That the cost of undertaking the electronic checks, currently £5.75 per check, be added to the application fee.

REASON

To protect the public by using the most up to date information available to ensure that only fit and proper persons are granted hackney carriage/private hire licenses

The meeting ended at 5.35pm having started at 5.30pm

CHAIRMAN