

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee held in Council Chamber, Allerdale House on Thursday 29 September 2016 at 1.30 pm

Members

A H Kendall (Chairman)

T Annison
H Harrington
B Miskelly
J M Mounsey
R Munby

B Pegram
D Wilson
J Wood
M Wood

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors L Davies, F Johnston, C Smith and S Stoddart

Staff Present

B Carlin, G Collinson and D Devine

195 Minutes

The minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 18 February 2016 were signed as a correct record.

The minutes of the Licensing Panel meetings held on 17 February 2016, 26 February 2016, 29 February 2016, 22 March 2016, 5 May 2016, 11 May 2016, 29 June 2016 and 18 July 2016 were each agreed as a correct record.

196 Declaration of Interests

None declared.

197 Questions

None received.

198 Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency Taxi Assessment

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer submitted a report which sought Members to consider interim arrangements pending the selection of a new assessment for hackney and private hire applicants.

The Licensing Committee had introduced a requirement that before being granted a hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence, all applicants must pass the Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) taxi assessment. This had been in force since 1 June 2002.

The requirement was applicable to all new drivers and as a disciplinary measure for any driver who appeared before the Licensing Panel with repeated driving offences.

Since the introduction of the requirement, certain exemptions from undertaking the assessment had been granted by the Licensing Committee including applicants who held a Driver Qualification Card evidencing that they held a Driver Certificate of Professional Competence.

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer advised Members that on 2 September 2016 notification was received from the DVSA by means of a letter, informing the Council that a decision had been made to withdraw the provision of taxi assessments with effect from 31 December 2016. The letter was appended to the report.

Following the decision by the DVSA, test centres had since stopped taking bookings. This meant that new applicants were unable to comply with the Council's application requirements.

Members were advised that until a new assessment was selected, which would involve research and then the Licensing Committee examining relevant assessments and selecting an appropriate one, it was necessary to consider an interim measure for new applicants and for any driver who may appear before the Licensing Panel with repeated driving offences.

Councillor M Wood moved that the requirement to pass a DVSA taxi assessment be removed from the application process and replaced with the following condition, in line with the Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer's recommendation:

All applicants for the grant of a new hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence must pass the DVSA taxi assessment. If this is not available they must pass the required assessment to be selected in due course by Allerdale Borough Council within six months of the implementation date of the new assessment. Any licensed drivers appearing before the Licensing Panel with repeated traffic offences may be required to pass the relevant assessment selected.

Councillor A Kendall seconded the motion.

A vote was taken; 10 in favour and 0 against.

The motion was carried.

Agreed

That the requirement to pass a DVSA taxi assessment be removed from the application process and replaced with the following condition:

All applicants for the grant of a new hackney carriage or private hire driver's licence must pass the DVSA taxi assessment. If this is not available they must pass the required assessment to be selected in due course by Allerdale Borough Council within six months of the implementation date of the new assessment. Any licensed drivers appearing before the Licensing Panel with

repeated traffic offences may be required to pass the relevant assessment selected.

The meeting closed at 1.55 pm