

LICENSING COMMITTEE

10 June 2015

Present: - Councillor Mike Lilley (Chairman)
Councillors Roger Buston, Nick Cope, Ray Gamble,
Dave Harris, Pauline Hazell, Darius Laws, Nigel Offen,
Philip Oxford

3. Hackney Carriage Plate Re-allocation Policy and Process

The Committee considered a further report by the Head of Professional Services on the adoption of a policy for the re-allocation of a hackney carriage plate in the event that one should become available. This matter had been previously considered by the Committee on 15 March and officers had been requested to further investigate the method of plate re-allocation and report back to the Committee. Mrs Harrington explained that having further considered the matter it was considered that the proposals set out in the report provided the fairest and most transparent method for the re-allocation of a hackney carriage plate.

The suggested policy required existing registered owners and drivers to register their interest; a notice would also be placed in a local newspaper and advertised via social media giving the general public the opportunity to register their interest. All expressions of interest would then be entered into a randomly generated draw which would be carried out at a meeting of the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers' Liaison Group. This was a process that was used by other authorities and no problems had been identified. This policy would not apply to the distribution of any new plates that may be recommended following an unmet demand survey; the criteria for the distribution of such plates would be determined by the Committee at the appropriate time.

There was discussion on the issue of the transfer of plates and the controls exercised by the Council in the light of recent cases involving vulnerable persons. Mrs Harrington responded that the policy did not circumvent all the usual safeguarding checks and that any issues that were identified as part of the application process would be dealt with in the accordance with the Council's existing policies.

In the light of the Committee's discussions and in response to members' questions the following changes were made to the policy –

- In paragraph 4.1 the addition of the words 'and time' so that it reads 'giving the closing date and time by which an application can be made'.
- In paragraph 5.1 the removal of the word 'week' and the inclusion instead of '5 working days'

RESOLVED to adopt the policy and process for the re-allocation of a hackney carriage plate set out in the report, as amended.