

REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Regulatory Committee on Wednesday, 16 January 2019 in the Council Chamber - Town Hall, Runcorn

Present: Councillors Wallace (Chair), Abbott (Vice-Chair), Fry, P. Hignett, K. Loftus, McDermott, A. McInerney, Nelson, G. Stockton, Wainwright and Wall

Apologies for Absence: None

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: K. Cleary, J. Tully and N. Wheeler

Also in attendance: Three members of the public and one member of the press.

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE COMMITTEE

REG18 CREAMFIELDS EVENT 2018

Action

The Committee considered an information report from two of the responsible authorities on issues arising from the carrying out of the Creamfields Event in August 2018. The reports were from Cheshire Constabulary and the Council's Environmental Health section.

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to present the facts from the viewpoint of these responsible authorities who have now dealt with a number of events.

It was previously agreed by the Chairman of the Committee that neither the Police nor Environmental Health would need to attend the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

Although not having an interest in the following item, in order to avoid any allegation of bias, Cllr S Nelson took no part in the debate or the decision and left the Chamber.

REG19 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Michael Pile who is the holder of the Private Hire Operator Licence for Airport Transfer Widnes attended the Committee to request that one of the pre-conditions for a Single Status Drivers Licence namely the requirement for the 'Local Area' section of the Taxi Knowledge Test (Section 1) would not apply to their drivers.

Mr Pile advised the Committee that the type of business they were undertaking was airport transfers type of work only and that the drivers of his vehicles would never be just a 'taxi driver'.

All work would be booked well in advance rather than the immediate response work associated with ordinary private hire work.

It was considered that Section 1 of the Taxi Knowledge Test (Local Area) was necessary for all standard taxi work.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the request be granted in that drivers employed by Airport Transfers Widnes would not be required to undertake Part 1 of the Taxi Knowledge Test (Local area); and
- (2) in future any similar applications be approved in principle and be determined by the Licensing Manager.

Strategic Director
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

REG20 SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

The Committee considered:

- (1) Whether Members of the press and public should be excluded from the meeting of the Board during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Sub-Section 4 of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business to be considered, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972; and

(2) Whether the disclosure of information was in the public interest, whether any relevant exemptions were applicable and whether, when applying the public interest test and exemptions, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED: That as, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed that in disclosing the information, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business in accordance with Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 because it was likely that, in view of the nature of the business, exempt information would be disclosed, being information defined in Section 100 (1) and paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

REG21 TAXI LICENSING MATTER

Case: No 720

RESOLVED: That the Single Status Drivers Licence be granted subject to the application process being completed.

Strategic Director
Enterprise,
Community and
Resources

Meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.