

15 NOVEMBER 2013

NEW FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee held at Appletree Court, Lyndhurst on Friday, 15 November 2013.

p Cllr G C Beck (Chairman)
p Cllr W H Dow (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors:

ap Mrs S V Beeton
p S J Clarke
p J D Heron
ap Miss A J Hickman
p A N G Kilgour
p Mrs A E McEvoy
p Mrs M McLean

Councillors:

p J Penwarden
p L R Puttock
p R F Scrivens
p S S Wade
ap Mrs C V Ward
p P R Woods

Officers Attending:

Miss J Debnam, Miss T Harwood, Ms A Righton, Mrs R Rutins, P Weston and Mrs A Wilson

16. MINUTES.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2013 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations of interest were made by any members in connection with an agenda item.

18. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

No issues were raised during the public participation period.

19. REVIEW OF TAXI LICENSING POLICY – DRIVER MEDICALS (REPORT A).

The Committee considered whether to amend the Council's taxi licensing policy relating to the frequency that medicals must be provided by all licensed drivers.

The DVLA standard that applied to Group 2 drivers had changed to provide that a medical examination report would need to be provided at age 45 and every 5 years

thereafter to renew their driving entitlement. The Council's current policy required a medical examination report at age 46 and every 6 years thereafter.

The Committee considered that it would be best practice to mirror the DVLA's standards in the Council's taxi licensing policy. Members also agreed that when minor changes were made to the DVLA Group 2 driving standards the Licensing Officer should be authorised to amend the Council's policy to reflect these changes. Any such amendments should however be reported to the next available meeting of this Committee.

It was also confirmed that the Council would continue to require the medical examination report to be provided by the driver's normal General Practitioner, even though the charges applied by GP practices varied widely. It was important that the doctor preparing the report had access to a full medical history.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy relating to the frequency that medicals must be provided by all licensed drivers be amended to provide that a medical examination report be provided at age 45 and every 5 years thereafter in order to renew driving entitlement; and
- (b) That the Licensing Officer be delegated authority to amend the Council's Taxi Licensing Policy to reflect any changes that the DVLA make to their Group 2 driving standards, subject to any such amendments being reported to the next available meeting of this Committee.

Action: Paul Weston

20. FEES AND CHARGES – 2014/15 (REPORT B).

Members considered the fees and charges for 2014/15 for Council services which were the responsibility of the General Purposes and Licensing Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the fees and charges for 2014/15, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report B to the Committee, be forwarded to the Cabinet with a recommendation that they be submitted to the Council for approval.

Action: Annie Righton

21. INDIVIDUAL ELECTORAL REGISTRATION (IER)

The Committee received a presentation on the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration which would commence during 2014. The change would do away with the principle of household registration and would mean that each individual had to take responsibility for their own registration. There was much detail that was still not known, but it was clear that the change would involve significant additional work for electoral services teams across the country. "Personal Identifiers" in the form of national insurance numbers and dates of birth had to be collected from electors and data-matched against DWP records. A "confirmation dry run" to test this data-matching had, by and large, proved successful but there was concern about the

ability of the Government's secure ICT systems to handle large amounts of data in a short period of time, such as in the run-up to elections. The transition phase would be fully funded by the Government, but funding post-transition was not assured.

Members would be kept informed as more information became available.

CHAIRMAN

(GPLC151113)