
DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 28 AUGUST 2012

Present-

MEMBERS:

Councillor Lawson (Chairman), Conway, Mrs Green, Link, Ryan and G Sutton

OFFICERS:

L Crowley	Solicitor
R Hill	Licensing Team Leader
R Mabbitt	Licensing Enforcement Officer
D Wills	Assistant Licensing Officer
T Coston	Member Support Officer, Democratic Services (Minutes)

Other Persons Present:

Ms C – Item 9 - Applicant

Mr K & Mr W – Item 10 – Applicants

The meeting began at 7:30 pm

1. INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present he would introduce the Committee and the Officers when it was appropriate.

2. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2012 were confirmed by the Members present and were then signed by the Chairman.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Fantham and G Chapman. Councillor Ryan substituted for Councillor G Chapman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

6. CHANGES TO CRB FEES AND PROCEDURES

R Hill explained that the Council currently requires applicants with taxi and private hire driver licenses to be subject to enhanced CRB checks prior to a licence being granted. A fee is charged by the CRB for this service and the Council recover the cost from applicants. He advised that, due to an administrative error, the most recent fee increase wasn't reflected by the Council's fees and therefore an undercharge had occurred. It was proposed to rectify this by adjusting the fee payable by applicants on a full cost recovery basis.

He advised that changes to the CRB's verification procedures from 1st September will require officers to undertake external identity verification checks of applicants who do not possess certain official documents stipulated by the CRB (namely, a valid passport, a UK photo driving licence, an original UK birthday certificate, or a UK biometric residence permit). A further fee will be incurred for this service, which has now been assessed at £7.20 and it is proposed that this should also be recharged in full to applicants.

It was proposed by Councillor G Sutton, and seconded by Councillor Mrs Green, that the Committee agree the recommendations, for the reasons as set out in the report.

Voting:

Unanimously agreed;

whereupon it was:

Resolved:

That the Committee agreed the following recommendations:

- That the fees charged by the Council in respect of CRB enhanced disclosures for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire drivers are raised to £44.00, with effect from the 1st September 2012.
- That the fee charged by an external identity verification company in respect of a CRB Route 2 identity check, for those applicants affected by those provisions, shall be recharged in full to the applicant.
- That any future changes to the fees charged by the CRB for disclosures, or the fees charged by an external identity verification company for Route 2 identity checks, shall be reflected automatically in the fees charged by the Council for such, on a full cost recovery basis, without further resolution.

7. TAXI LICENSING LAW REFORM PROPOSALS

R Hill explained that the report set out proposals for the reform of taxi licensing laws in the UK as put forward by the Law Commission. The Law Commission will be attending a meeting at the Civic Centre on Thursday 30 August 2012 to give a detailed overview of the proposals. He advised that the report was provided for information purposes only as no action is required at this stage, and it is thought unlikely that any reform will take effect within the next 2-3 years.

Resolved:

That the Committee noted the contents of the report

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It was moved by Councillor Lawson and seconded by Councillor G Sutton to move to Part II of the meeting and to exclude the public.

Voting:

Unanimously agreed

Whereupon it was:

Resolved:

That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded during the items in Part II of the Agenda for this meeting, because it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted, that if members of the public were present during these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to individuals which is likely to reveal their identities (Minutes 9 and 10).

9. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM STANDARD ANIMAL HOME BOARDING ESTABLISHMENT CONDITIONS – MS C

Full details are in the Part 2 minutes

10. REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENSING POLICY – MR K & MR W

Full details are in the Part 2 minutes

The meeting ended at 8:07 pm