

GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE

15 DECEMBER 2015

PRESENT – Councillor Nutt (in the Chair); Councillors C.L.B Hughes, B. Jones, Mrs. Jones, Kane, Lawton and Stenson. (7)

APOLOGIES – Councillors L. Haszeldine, Lee and Newall; and Sergeant C. Dickenson and PCSO M McAllister, Durham Constabulary. (3)

OFFICERS – Pam Ross, Licensing, Car Parks, Trading Standards and CCTV Manager; Julie Richings, Principal Licensing Officer; Helen Thompson, Lawyer; and Allison Hill, Democratic Officer.

L9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

L10. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Committee held on 29 September, 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

L11. MINUTES – Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of the General Licensing Sub-Committee held on 29 September 2015.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

L12. CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO TAXI LICENSING FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2016-17 – The Director of Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) to consult with Members on the proposed changes in the fees and charges relating to the licensing of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles, their drivers and operators following a report to Cabinet on 8 December 2015.

It was reported that the proposed fees have been based on the actual cost of administering and where appropriate enforcing the relevant legislation pertaining to such licences. The legislation does not permit the Council to profit from its fees and charges.

It was also reported that currently all Driver Licences and Operator Licences are issued by this authority for a maximum period of one year. The Deregulation Act 2015 requires that all local authorities make provision for drivers to opt for three year licences and operators to opt for five year licences and these provisions came into force on 1 October 2015 (Minute L7/Sep/15).

All Councils have been required to revisit their fees and propose charges for the longer time periods. The proposed fee structure was detailed in full in the submitted report

RESOLVED – (a) That the report be received.

(b) That Members of this General Licensing Committee support the proposed fees and charges relating to hackney carriage vehicle and driver licences, private hire vehicle and driver licences and private hire operator licences detailed in the submitted report.