

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 8TH DECEMBER, 2015

PRESENT: Councillor J Blake in the Chair

Councillors D Blackburn, R Charlwood,
G Latty, J Lewis, A Lowe, J Procter,
J Pryor, M Rafique, S Varley and L Yeadon

Apologies: Councillor S Golton

19 Appeals against refusal of inspection of documents

There were no appeals against the refusal of inspection of documents.

20 Exempt Information - possible exclusion of the press and public

There were no appeals against refusal of inspection of documents.

21 Late items

There were no late items submitted for consideration.

22 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other Interests

No declarations were made.

23 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Golton.

24 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED – With the addition of an omitted attendee name, that the minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2015 be approved as a correct record.

25 Changes to the Constitution to enable cross authority monitoring and enforcement of taxi and private hire activity

The Head of Elections, Licensing and Registration presented his report which set out the background to the changes made by the Deregulation Act 2015 and how they will affect this Authority, particularly issues of general public safety, safeguarding and enforcement capability. The report recommended that taxi and private hire licensing enforcement functions be delegated to the

other West Yorkshire authorities, and similarly for this authority to receive their delegated taxi and private hire licensing enforcement functions.

The work of the Licensing Committee and Licensing officers in bringing forward the proposals was commended; as was the positive work taking place between all West Yorkshire authorities, York and the Police and Crime Panel on these matters. It was also acknowledged that this innovative practice was also being considered nationally by the Local Government Association.

RESOLVED – The Committee resolved to recommend to full Council that:

- (a) The Taxi and Private Hire enforcement powers as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the submitted report are delegated by Leeds City Council to the following local authorities, namely: City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council; Wakefield Metropolitan District Council; Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council; Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council and City of York Council as well as retaining those functions within Leeds City Council. To agree to Leeds City Council receiving similar delegated enforcement powers from those named Authorities.
- (b) Changes to the Constitution as set out at Appendix A and Appendix B of the submitted report be approved;
- (c) The Section Head Taxi and Private Hire Licensing continues enquiries with other councils (including Manchester City Council and Rossendale Borough Council) and if agreement is reached in principle with other councils, for the report to full Council, and the recommended changes to the Constitution, to include reference to those councils; and
- (d) Members note that on recommendation from the Council's Licensing Committee that any necessary changes to the Council's Licensing Policies arising from the proposed changes will be approved by the Council's Executive.