

## **MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Regulatory Committee meeting held at the Council Offices, Needham Market on Friday 1 April 2016 at 10:00 am.

### **PRESENT:**

Councillor Kathie Guthrie – Chairman – Conservative and Independent Group

#### **Conservative and Independent Group**

Councillors: Julie Flatman  
Kevin Welsby

#### **Green Group**

Councillors: John Matthissen

#### **Liberal Democrat Group**

Councillors: M G Norris

**In attendance:** Corporate Manager (Open for Business)  
Governance Support Officer (VL)

### **LC05 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors David Card, James Caston, Paul Ekpenyong, Elizabeth Gibson-Harries, Gary Green, Esther Jewson and Andrew Stringer

### **LC06 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

None received.

### **LC07 MINUTES OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 FEBRUARY 2016**

#### **Report LC/03/16**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2016 were confirmed as a correct record.

### **LC08 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

None received.

### **LC09 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

None received.

## LC10 NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS

None received.

## LC11 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING – FEE SCHEME REVISION

### Report LC/04/16

### Corporate Manager (Open for Business)

The report referred to fee setting for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing functions pursuant to Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. At its meeting on 5 February 2016, the Committee resolved to set new fee levels, being the first revisions since 2011, subject to the prescribed notice period and opportunity for stakeholder/public objections.

That process had now been concluded and the matter was reported back to Committee accordingly for its consideration of whether any modifications were necessary to the fees proposed and to determine the fee levels that would apply in the Mid Suffolk District Council area.

The Committee considered the report and requested clarification from the Corporate Manager (Open for Business) on the following matters:

- Raising hackney carriage tariffs –it would be necessary to further consult with all hackney proprietors and a report would be brought to a future meeting
- Locations of the four testing stations – not yet finalised but to be spread across the District
- Implementation date of the paper based knowledge test – several versions had been developed to prevent a driver having prior knowledge of the questions and the test would be required for all current undetermined applications
- What help could be given to a driver who did not understand written English – help would be given if Officers were made aware of the problem. The test also contained an oral element and if verbal understanding was difficult a further assessment might be required. If a driver failed the knowledge test due to a language barrier the application might have to be referred to the Regulatory Subcommittee for decision. (The Corporate Manager (Open for Business) advised that he would forward a sample copy of the test to Members)

By a unanimous vote

### **RESOLUTION**

*That the Committee set the date of 12 April 2016 on which the revised fees shall come into force without modification as decided by the Committee on behalf of Mid Suffolk District Council after consideration of the objections*

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Chairman