
GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 10.09.18

Present: Councillors, Steve Collings, Annwen Hughes, Eryl Jones-Williams, Dafydd Owen, Edgar Wyn Owen, Jason Wayne Parry, Peter Read, Angela Russell, Elfed W. Williams and Gareth Williams.

Also in Attendance: Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Public Protection Manager), Gwenan Mai Roberts (Licensing Manager), Geraint B Edwards (Solicitor) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor John Brynmor Hughes, Siôn Jones, Rheinallt Puw and Annwen Daniels.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 11 June 2018 as a true record.

5. MINUTES OF THE GENERAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

Submitted - for information, the minutes of a meeting of the General Licensing Sub-committee that took place on 22.05.2018, 17.07.2018 and 24.07.2018.

6. PROPOSED TAXI LICENCE FEES 2018/19

A report was presented by the Head of the Environment Department on the response to the public consultation regarding increasing taxi licence fees in order to ensure that costs associated with licensing administration are fully recovered. Members were reminded that Sections 53 and 70 of the Local Government

(Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 state that fees may be charged at a level sufficient to recover reasonable costs; the increase on average will be 28%.

It was reported that the consultation had expired on 30th August and it was confirmed that no objections or written observations had been received. It was highlighted that one local company had mentioned in an email that it would be an idea to review the fares the industry can charge customers. This observation was received as no application for a review had been made for years.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted by individual Members:

- Much work had been done to address and protect the industry in the past
- An application for a three-year licence was ultimately cheaper than a one-year licence and that the saving was substantial.

In response to a comment that a suggestion had been made to review customer fares, it was noted that a written request was required from an industry representative in order to formally commence the process. It was added that the officers would encourage the industry to submit a letter.

In response to a question regarding briefing discussions with Cabinet Members, regarding the matter, it was reported that regular meetings took place with the Cabinet Member and the Cabinet Member was aware that the principle was to recover the costs.

In response to a question regarding reviewing and reconciling the regulations across Gwynedd, it was noted that this would be considered when reviewing Gwynedd Council Taxi Policies.

It was RESOLVED to finally approve the proposal to increase the fees to be operational from 1st October 2018, to the level recommended; in accordance with the procedure outlined in the public consultation.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10:15am.