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Licensing (Miscellaneous) Committee

Thursday 26 August, 2014

Private Hire/Vehicles/Operators Licence related matters

1. Summary Statement

To inform the Committee of matters affecting applications for licences and licences previously granted under the terms of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

Further details are attached for your information

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 To take appropriate action in respect of individual licence applications and current licences in view of the information presented.

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3. Strategic Resource Implications

3.1 There are no resource implications in this report.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

4.1 Article 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998 state that in determination of a persons civil rights and obligations, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

4.2 Article 8 states that everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.

4.3 Part II, Article 1 of the Act states that every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles on international law.

5. Implications for the Scorecard Priorities

5.1 The Licensing process contributes to the Scorecard priority of Great Prospects by making opportunities available for employment locally. The service indirectly supports great prospects by investing in business, people and jobs.

5.2 Through the provision of the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage licensing service, the Licensing Section is committed to contributing to the Scorecard Priority of Great Place.

5.3 There are no implications in this report for the Council or its partners' working towards their priorities.

6. Background Details

6.1 Section 51 of the Act provides that a district council shall on receipt of an application from any person for the grant to that person of a licence to drive private hire vehicles, grant to that person a licence;

(a) Unless they are satisfied that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold a drivers licence; or

- (b) to any person who has not for at least twelve months been, and is not at the date of application for a drivers licence, the holder of a licence granted under Part 111 of the Act of 1972, 1988 (not being a provisional licence) authorising him to drive a motor car.

6.2 Section 61 (1) of the Act states that a district council may suspend, revoke or refuse to renew a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence on any of the following grounds:-

- (a) the holder has, since the grant of the licence;
 - (i) been convicted of an offence involving dishonesty, indecency or violence, or
 - (ii) been convicted of an offence or failed to comply with the provisions of this part of the Act; or
- (b) any other reasonable cause.

(2A) Subject to subsection (2B) of this section, a suspension or revocation of the licence of a driver under this section takes effect at the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which notice is given to the driver under subsection (2)(a) of this section.

(2B) If it appears that the interests of public safety require the suspension or revocation of the licence to have immediate effect, and the notice given to the driver under subsection (2)(a) of this section includes a statement that that is so and an explanation why, the suspension or revocation takes effect when the notice is given to the driver.

6.3 Section 48 of the Act states that a district council may on the receipt of an application from the proprietor of any vehicle for the grant in respect of such vehicle of a licence to use the vehicle as a private hire vehicle, grant in respect thereof a vehicle licence:

Provided that a district council shall not grant such a licence unless they are satisfied:-

- (a) that the vehicle is:-
 - (i) suitable in type, size and design for use as a private hire vehicle;
 - (ii) not of such design and appearance as to lead any person to believe that the vehicle is a hackney carriage;

- (iii) in a suitable mechanical condition;
 - (iv) safe; and
 - (v) comfortable;
- (b) that there is in force in relation to the use of the vehicle a policy of insurance or such security as complies with the requirements of part VI of the Act of 1972.

- 6.4 Section 55 (1) of the Act states a district council shall, on receipt of an application from any person for the grant to that person of a licence to operate private hire vehicles grant to that person an operator's licence: Provided that a district council shall not grant a licence unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold an operator's licence.
- 6.5 Section 62(1) of the Act states a district council may suspend or revoke, or (on application therefore under section 55 of this Act) refuse to renew an operator's licence on any of the following grounds:-
- (a) any offence under, or non-compliance with, the provisions of this Part of this Act;
 - (b) any conduct on the part of the operator which appears to the district council to render him unfit to hold an operator's licence;
 - (c) any material change since the licence was granted in any of the circumstances of the operator on the basis of which the licence was granted; or
 - (d) any other reasonable cause.
- 6.6 Section 60 of the Act states that a district council may suspend or revoke or refuse to renew a vehicle licence on any of the following grounds:-
- (a) that the hackney carriage or private hire vehicle is unfit for use as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle;
 - (b) any offence under, or non-compliance with, the provisions of the Act of 1847 or of this part of this Act by the operator or driver; or
 - (c) any other reasonable cause.
- 6.7 Individual case details are appended which refer to unspent convictions. Unspent convictions are those not covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.
- 6.8 If an application is refused, suspended or revoked the applicant has the right of appeal to the Magistrates Court.

Source Documents

Applications (exempt information).