

APPENDIX 2

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 12th April, 2016

MINUTES

Present:

Councillor Jane Potter (Chair), Councillor Gay Hopkins (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Joe Baker, David Bush, Gareth Prosser, Paul Swansborough, Jennifer Wheeler and Nina Wood-Ford

Also Present:

Councillors Tom Baker-Price, Roger Bennett, Natalie Brookes, Antonia Pulsford, David Thain and D Jones (Independent Person, Audit, Governance and Standards Committee)

Officers:

Tracy Beech, Jackie Boreham, Sue Garratt, John Godwin, Sam Morgan, Jayne Pickering and Deb Poole

Democratic Services Officer:

J Bayley and A Scarce

MINUTE EXTRACT

95. IMPROVING ACCESS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES TO REDDITCH TAXI FLEETS SHORT, SHARP REVIEW - FINAL REPORT

Councillor Gay Hopkins, Chair of the review, delivered a presentation which provided background information as to why it had been set up. She explained that it had been a very intense piece of work over a short period of time.

The presentation provided information in respect of the number of taxis in Redditch, together with data in respect of the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs), the types of disabilities that could affect people when travelling by taxi, and details about relevant legislation. Councillor Hopkins stressed that there were some very good drivers in the Borough who provided excellent services to those in need. However, improvements could still be made to services available to customers with disabilities. She went on to provide a summary of the supporting evidence for each of the

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Chair

recommendations that had been put forward by the group and provided details of the rationale behind each one.

Following the presentation Members of the review, who were present at the meeting, supported the recommendations and advised the Committee that as the Chair had stated, it had been a very informative, intense piece of work which had tackled a very difficult subject. The Chair of the review responded to a number of questions from Members and following further discussion it was

RECOMMENDED to the Licensing Committee that

The Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Policy and the Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy should be amended:

- 1.1) to allow applications for new hackney carriages to be made for vehicles that are less than six years old, meet European M1 safety standards and have facilities for carrying a disabled person in a wheelchair within the vehicle. (*This relates to the Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licensing Policy only*);**
- 1.2) to require drivers to display stickers in their vehicles that provide information about how to report complaints;**
- 1.3) the Driver Licence Policy – Application for a Hackney Carriage and / or Private Hire Vehicle Driver’s Licence – should be amended to require that refresher training should be provided on driving standards and disability awareness to taxi drivers every three years;**
- 2.1) there should be a media campaign to guide disabled people and taxi drivers when travelling by taxi about their rights and responsibilities;**
- 2.2) WRS should publish a list of drivers who currently operate licensed wheelchair accessible vehicles on the WRS and Redditch Borough Council websites in a similar format to Brighton and Hove City Council and Eden District Council;**
- 3.1) WRS should undertake a review of the conditions attached to taxi operators’ licences; and**

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- 3.2) the Licensing Committee should review the effectiveness of the disability awareness training provided to taxi drivers.