Public Protection Committee



Date	22 August 2005
Venue	Lowther Pavilion, Lytham
Committee members	Dawn Prestwich (Chairman)
	Christine Akeroyd, Elizabeth Clarkson, Susan Fazackerley, Janine Owen, Albert Pounder, Heather Speak, Martin Taylor, Ronald Wilson, Keith Wright
Other Councillors	Derek Lancaster
Officers	Peter Welsh, Clare Holmes, Chris Hambley, Stuart Handley, Andrew Lee

At the commencement of the meeting it was agreed that councillor Albert Pounder should act as vice chairman.

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 11 May 2005 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

Councillor Heather Speak was at the meeting as substitute for Councillor Kiran Mulholland, as allowed by council procedure rule 22.3

4. Enforcement Policy

Stuart Handley (Commercial & Licensing Manager) reported on the Councils enforcement policy.

The purpose of this report was to clarify and explain to members the criteria officers of the Council followed when recommending the action to take for breaches of legislation, in line with the Council's Enforcement Policy and Crown Prosecution Code of Practice.

A copy of the Council's enforcement policy was circulated with the agenda.

The committee RESOLVED to note the report.

5. Hurst Lea Caravan Site

The Committee RESOLVED to defer this item to the next meeting.

6. Request for Hackney carriage vehicle licence

Chris Hambley, (Licensing Officer) reported that applications had been received from Robert Shipley and Robert Calvert for the grant of hackney carriage licences.

The vehicles were wheelchair accessible but did not conform to the Metropolitan Police's Conditions of Fitness, (turning circle of the vehicle) and vehicle age, a requirement established by a previous meeting of the Public Protection Committee.

Members took the opportunity to inspect the vehicles and ascertain their suitability as hackney carriage vehicles.

Following full consideration the committee RESOLVED-

1. To approve the application for the granting of a hackney carriage vehicle licence to Mr Shipley.

(The granting of the above hackney carriage vehicle licence is subject to complying with the Councils policy in relation to additional Hackney Carriage licence applications with the exception of complying with the conditions of fitness relating to the turning circle of the vehicle as laid down by the Metropolitan Police and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986.)

2. To approve the application for the granting of a hackney carriage vehicle licence to Mr Calvert.

(The granting of the above hackney carriage vehicle licence is subject to complying with the Councils policy in relation to additional Hackney Carriage licence applications with the exception of complying with the conditions of fitness relating to the turning circle of the vehicle as laid down by the Metropolitan Police and the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 and age of the vehicle).

3. That a further report on the policy for determining applications for additional hackney carriage licences be submitted to the next meeting of the committee.

7. Vehicle Signage

Chris Hambley, (Licensing Officer) informed members that a letter had been received from Whiteside Taxis requesting that permission be given for advertising stickers to be displayed on the rear doors and boot of Private Hire Vehicles operated by Whitesides Taxi's.

As this would involve an amendment to the Private Hire Drivers Licence conditions, the matter had been referred to the Public Protection Committee for consideration

Following a full debate the committee RESOLVED to adjourn the application, with the provision that no advertising takes place in the interim, to allow a full review of the existing policies relating to signage on private hire and hackney vehicles to be undertaken, in conjunction with the trade through the Taxi Quality Partnership.

8. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED - That under Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. Private hire driver application

Chris Hambley (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a private hire driver application. A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED to approve the application of AS.