

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **REGULATORY SUB COMMITTEE A** held on 23 February 2015 at 10.30 am

Present

Councillors N V Davey, T G Hughes and D J Knowles

Present

Officers: Simon Newcombe (Public Health and Professional Services Manager), Simon Johnson (Legal Services Manager), Thomas Keating (Lead Licensing Officer) and Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer)

1 **Chairman - Election**

RESOLVED that Cllr T G Hughes be elected Chairman of the Sub Committee for the meeting.

Cllr Hughes then took the Chair.

2 **To consider the fitness of two Licensed Hackney Carriage / Private Hire drivers**

The Chairman introduced the Members of the Sub Committee to those present.

Prior to consideration of a report of the Head of Human Resources and Development considering whether two licensed hackney carriage / private drivers could continue to be considered 'fit and proper' to hold their licence, the Sub Committee discussed whether or not the Hearing should be held in public or private. Members considered that the circumstances of the case would be likely to reveal the identity of the taxi drivers as well as details relating to their personal life and business affairs. The following resolution was therefore passed:

ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the next item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in section 100I and paragraph 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, namely information relating to any individual, information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Public Health and Professional Services Manager outlined the contents of the report and stated that the taxi drivers in question had chosen not to attend the Hearing.

The Sub Committee heard evidence from two Safety, Compliance and Fleet Officers from Devon County Council as well as the Lead Licensing Officer from Mid Devon District Council.

Having reflected on the evidence presented to them the Sub Committee **RESOLVED** that the licences relating to each of the hackney carriage / private hire drivers be revoked with immediate effect. Their decision was based on the following reasons:

- There was clear evidence, including an admission from one of the drivers, that bookings had been undertaken in unlicensed vehicles.
- There was also evidence that despite Devon County Council having prohibited one of the taxi drivers from carrying out school contracts a booking had indeed taken place by this individual despite this prohibition.

(The meeting ended at 12.05 pm)

CHAIRMAN