

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of a **MEETING** of the **REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held on 18 December 2014 at 10.45am

Present

Councillors

Mrs F J Colthorpe, D R Coren, N V Davey,
A V G Griffiths, P H D Hare-Scott, T G Hughes,
D J Knowles, E G Luxton and P F Williams

Apologies

Councillors

R J Chesterton, M R Lee and M A Lucas

Also Present

Officers:

Sarah Lees (Member Services Officer) and Simon Newcombe
(Public Health and Professional Services Manager)

1 **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (00:44:07)**

RESOLVED that Cllr T G Hughes be elected Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2014/15.

Cllr T G Hughes then took the Chair.

2 **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN (00:45:00)**

RESOLVED that Cllr D J Knowles be elected Vice Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2014/15.

3 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (00:46:00)**

There were no members of the public present.

4 **MINUTES (00:46:30)**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2014 were approved as a correct record and **SIGNED** by the Chairman.

5 **REGULATORY PERFORMANCE (00:47:00)**

The Committee had before it a report * from the Head of Human Resources and Development providing the annual Regulatory performance report. It was explained that the Council's Hackney carriage and private Hire Policy came into effect in April 2013. The main changes this brought about was to implement a stricter vehicle test, increase the test frequency to every six months once a vehicle was 3 years old and from April 2014, introduce a rolling five year age limit on new vehicles. The Council did not have a risk assessed inspection programme for taxis but it did work closely with authorised garages. They carried out vehicle tests and notified the Council immediately if a vehicle failed a test.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Another compliance day being arranged alongside the Vehicle Operator Services Agency and the Police before April 2015.
- The majority of vehicles being well maintained, only a few failed the test.

- It was still early days for the six month regime, there may be an opportunity to amend policy once more data had been gathered.
- It being the drivers responsibility to ensure the vehicle was safe to drive, not the Council.
- Since the introduction of the new Scrap Metal Dealers Act in October 2013 the revised regulatory regime had proved to be successful. It was confirmed that mobile collectors were the hardest to police but the new regulations were proving helpful.
- The Council liaised with FramWatch and other such agencies and if notified of a metal theft or crime the Council would follow this up with a visit to the notified premises.

RESOLVED that the contents of the report be noted and that the target for the issuing of licences be amended from 95% to 97% and that the length of time to issue a license after approval be amended from three working days to five working days.

(Proposed by Cllr Mrs F J Colthorpe and seconded by Cllr D R Coren)

Note: * Report previously circulated, copy attached to signed minutes.

(The meeting ended at 11.20 am)

CHAIRMAN