

## **Housing & Community Safety Select Committee**

A meeting of Housing & Community Safety Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 10th August, 2010.

**Present:** Cllr Julia Cherrett (Chairman), Cllr Cockerill (vice Cllr Woodhead), Cllr Jackie Earl, Cllr Robert Gibson, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Bill Noble.

**Officers:** Dave Kitching, Mike Batty (DNS); Graham Birtle, Fiona McKie (LD).

**Also in attendance:** Representatives of the Taxi Trade.

**Apologies:** were submitted on behalf of Cllr Mrs Allison Trainer, Cllr Jean Kirby and Cllr Bill Woodhead.

### **HCS 17/10**      **Declarations of Interest**

None

### **HCS 18/10**      **Draft minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July 2010 to be considered for approval.**

CONCLUDED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 1st July 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

### **HCS 19/10**      **Draft minutes of the meeting held on the 12th July 2010.**

CONCLUDED that the draft minutes of the meeting held on 12th July 2010 were agreed as a correct record.

### **HCS 20/10**      **Review of Taxi Licensing**

The Head of Community Protection and the Trading Standards and Licensing Manager were in attendance to present Members with an overview of the service and its performance.

Trading Standards and Licensing service had been made into one service in 1998 in order to decrease management and administrative support costs.

Members were informed that it was very difficult to compare one service against another. However, a request had been made to a number of authorities for information. The information had not been forthcoming so Officers had made a Freedom of Information request. Information from 4 authorities had been received to date but Officers were waiting until the deadline to give all authorities the opportunity to respond. Officers would submit the information to a future meeting.

Discussion was held on the timescales to issue a licence and how these were recorded. The trade felt that the process could be reduced and felt that other authorities had different procedures which made the process less bureaucratic. Officers offered to meet to discuss these ideas in more detail but felt that it was important to have a set policy and procedure to ensure public safety. Members requested that a meeting be held between Officers and a few members of the Taxi Trade and report back to Members at the next meeting.

The Taxi Trade raised the issue of the V5 document and it was requested that the legalities of the authority sending the V5 document to the DVLA be sought.

Members were informed that North Tyneside had undertaken an internal review of their taxi licensing procedures and it was suggested that the report be considered for information purposes.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted.

**HCS  
21/10**      **Work Programme**

It was suggested that the meeting on 26th August be cancelled and a new date be arranged for September to ensure that all of the information that was outstanding was available for Members to consider.

CONCLUDED that a date be arranged for September, 2010.

**HCS  
22/10**      **Chair's Update**

None