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## GENERAL LICENSING COMMITTEE, 08.12.14

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**Present:** Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Chairman)

Councillors, Annwen Hughes, Llywarch Bowen Jones, Dilwyn Lloyd, W.Tudor Owen, Peter Read, Angela Russell, Ann Williams, Elfed W Williams

**Also in attendance:** Siôn Huws (Senior Solicitor), Gwenan Mai Williams (Public Protection Manager (Health and Safety and Licensing)), Sheryl Le Bon Jones (Licensing Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer)

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**Councillor Eryl Jones Williams was elected as Chairman for this meeting only.**

**2. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Chairman, Councillor Eryl Jones Williams, welcomed everyone to the Committee. Apologies were received from Councillors Huw Edwards and Louise Hughes. It was noted that Councillor Huw Edwards was very ill and that the Committee members sent him their best wishes.

**3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

**4. URGENT MATTERS**

None to note.

**5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 15 September 2014, as a true record.

**6. GENERAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES**

31.7.2014

The sub-committee's minutes were received as information.

**7. CORRECTION TO THE WORDING OF THE HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES LICENSING POLICY**

Submitted – the report of the Head of Regulatory Department stating the need to make a correction in clause 3, section C, page 4 of the Licensing Policy for Hackney and Private Hire Vehicles. Since approving the policy on 15.9.2014, it had become apparent that the words 'change of vehicle' appeared in the clause. A

revised copy of the policy had been appended the reference to 'change of vehicle' had been deleted.

**IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED TO APPROVE THE CORRECTION TO THE WORDING OF HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES LICENSING POLICY.**

**8. PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES 2014/15 REPORT – PUBLIC PROTECTION DEPARTMENT**

A table of the proposed fees and charges for the Public Protection Department for 2014/15 were submitted for the members' attention to be officially approved before it would be introduced to the public. It was noted that, where the legislation allows local discretion in terms of setting the fee levels, an assessment would be undertaken annually of the costs associated with these services. It was recommended to increase the 2014/15 fees, where there was discretion to do so, by 2.5% in line with inflation and to move towards reclaiming the costs of relevant services. It was reiterated that it would be possible for elements of some fees to be reviewed.

In a response to a question concerning the need to charge fees for property and for those providing tattoo, body piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture services, it was noted that this ensured consistency and standards within the services as there was a high staff turnover in some businesses. Setting fees ensured the hygiene of equipment and property and the suitability of the person offering the service. An important element of ensuring that the public were being protected.

Additionally, the licensing officer was asked about the work being undertaken to target people operating tattoo, body piercing, electrolysis and acupuncture services from their homes. In terms of tattoo services, it was explained that implementing such businesses from a domestic property was illegal, and that it was the Health and Safety Executive that usually enforced such matters, although the Council officers had powers that could be used in relation to preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

It was reiterated that a scheme for sharing information with the public through press statements had been implemented to draw attention to the risks associated with having work done in a person's home.

Concern was expressed amongst members that the Public Protection Service was facing service cuts, even though licensing fees had been increased to recover costs for the service. As a result, officers would be taking on additional responsibilities and the service would appear to be reactive rather than proactive.

**RESOLVED to approve the fees put forward by the Head of the Regulatory Department**

Additional Matters:

- a) Following changes within the structure of the Public Protection Service where the number of managers would be reduced from seven to five, it was reported that Gwenan Mai Williams would be returning to the Environment field and that Sheryl Le Bon Jones would receive responsibilities over the licensing service. Gwenan Mai Williams was thanked for her service and her support to the Licensing Committee and best wishes were expressed to her in her new post.

Ceridwen Pritchard, who had just retired as Licensing Officer, was also thanked for her work and support for the service over the years. It was noted that Eirlys Jones would be taking Ceridwen Pritchard's responsibilities.

A request was made for a copy of the new structure so that members would receive up to date information on the changes.

- b) Changes to taxi application arrangements against the policy. It was suggested that Councillor Peter Read supported Councillors Tudor Owen and Eryl Jones Williams with the changes and that he be included on the decisions panel. It was accepted that the policy needed to be reviewed soon and that the government must act on decisions urgently.

The proposal was accepted. Councillor Peter Read to contact the Licensing Manager.

Everyone was thanked for their contribution.

The meeting commenced at 10:00am and concluded at 10.40am.