

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: Tuesday 4th December 2007

**Present: Councillor Steen (in the Chair)
Councillors A Barnes, L Barnes, Cheetham, Dickinson,
Eaton, Gill, Morris, Sandiford, and Wilson**

**In Attendance: D Dobson, Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer
D Hamill, Taxi Enforcement Officer
S Bithell, Senior Solicitor
J Cook, Committee Officer
C Law, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: Councillor Swain and 11 Members of the Taxi Trade and
Public**

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Pilling, Lynskey and Unsworth.

2. MINUTES

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 8th October 2007 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting, however no declarations of interest were made.

OPERATIONAL MATTERS

5. CHAIR'S UPDATE

Implementation of Fare Cards

The implementation of the new fare cards as approved at the last committee is currently on hold, pending more consultation. A comprehensive survey of the taxi trade has been carried out by the Licensing Unit and the results of this survey will be released at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.

Appointment re-booking fees

It was agreed that an update of the new system of charging for re-booking of appointments with the Licensing Unit would be provided after 6 months. I am pleased to report that the system is working well with no drivers being charged so far. The appointment system is flowing well with customers able to get an appointment within a couple of days and any cancellations are being done in a timely manner.

16 Seater Minibuses

It has come to the Licensing Unit's attention that 16 seater minibuses are being used. This is a matter that the Licensing Unit takes very seriously and any complaints of this nature are being forwarded to the appropriate authorities, being the Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency.

New driver identification badges (launch date 26/11/07)

The new credit card style hackney carriage and private hire driver identification badges are now in use and will be available to all new drivers and current drivers on renewal of their licence.

New vehicle identification plates and stickers (launch date 3/12/07)

The new hackney carriage and private hire vehicle identification plates and stickers are now in use and will be available to all newly licensed vehicles and current vehicles on annual renewal of the vehicle licence.

6. STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY – 2008/2011

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer, which informed members regarding the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the requirements on Licensing Authorities to review the Licensing Policy every three years.

In addition the Senior Enforcement Officer drew Members attention to the comparisons with policies in similar organisations.

Resolved:

That the Licensing Committee recommend the Statement of Licensing Policy 2008 to 2011 to the Cabinet.

7. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

Resolved:

That the public and press be excluded from the following item of business under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 since the following item involves the disclosure of exempt information under Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

8. APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF A REVOCATION OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR IA

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer.

The applicant presented information in support of his application.

The applicant and the Licensing Unit staff left the room to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved:

That the Licence be not revoked under Section 61(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Committee considered that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence.

9. APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF A REVOCATION OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR IK

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer.

The applicant presented information in support of his application.

The applicant and the Licensing Unit staff left the room to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved:

That the Licence be not revoked under Section 61(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Committee considered that the Applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence.

10. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR AH

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer.

The applicant's representative presented information in support of the applicant to the Committee.

The applicant, the applicant's representative and the Licensing Unit staff left the room to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved:

The Committee resolved that the application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence be deferred until the prosecution action referred to in the Report has been concluded.

11. APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF A REVOCATION OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR SH

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer informed the members that this item had been removed from the agenda. The Officer explained the decision could be

dealt with under delegated authority and explained the circumstances why it was no longer appropriate for the Committee.

12. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR ZR

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer.

The applicant's representative presented information in support of the applicant to the Committee.

The applicant, the applicant's representative and the Licensing Unit staff left the room to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved:

That the licence be refused under Section 59(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. The Committee considered that in the light of the disclosed conviction the Applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.30pm