

## LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Friday 15 April 2005 at 09.30am in Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

### PRESENT

Councillors Paula Riches (Chair)  
Geoff Goble  
Elaine Baker  
Margaret Foster  
Jacqui Hancock  
Carolyn Lowndes  
Robin Sparshatt  
Tom Blair  
Alan Langford  
Lee Mason  
Jezz Baker  
Deborah Tomes

### Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor's Fred Charlton, Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Les Stevens and Lee Hunt.

**19 Declaration of Members' Interests in accordance with Standing Order 14 (AI 1)**

**20 Minutes of Licensing Committee Meeting held on 4 March 2005 (AI 2)**

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

**21 Matters Arising from the Minutes (AI 3)**

**Item 14 – Item 8 Consideration of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr D**

The Licensing Officer advised the Committee that Mr D had been due to appear in the Magistrates Court on 29 March but did not attend and that subsequently the appeal had been dismissed. Therefore the original resolution of the Committee had been reinstated.

The Deputy Licensing Officer advised the Committee that he had contacted Mr D who was then in Northern Ireland and had spoken to him on the phone. Mr D indicated that he did not intend to return to the area. A letter was sent to Mr d but he did not attend for the drug test (part of the original resolution) and therefore two letters had been sent to Mr D requesting the return of his license. To date no reply had been received.

The City Solicitor advised the Committee that an emergency meeting would need to be called in order to revoke Mr D's license.

It was agreed that a letter of suspension should be sent and Mr D's current employer and other taxi companies in the area informed.

The Committee raised concerns about the procedures that have to be gone through in order to revoke licenses of drivers particularly those involving drugs and alcohol.

The Committee agreed that after the general election a letter should be sent to the local MPs and the government Minister responsible asking for this to be reviews.

### **Item 15 - Options for a Review of Current Policy to Restrict the Number of Hackney Cab Vehicle Licences**

The Licensing Officer briefed the meeting on the progress so far. Letters had been sent to 5 companies requesting quotes for carrying out the survey. There had been 3 replies so far. The Licensing Officer would be meeting with Mr Roger Ching Strategic Director of Corporate Resources and Services to go through the proposal shortly.

### **Item 16 – Appointment to Sub Committees**

John Haskell, Democratic Services Manager attended the meeting to answer any questions.

Members of the Committee were still unhappy with the alternative names columns for the 5 groups.

Members raised the issue of what the sub committees should be hearing e.g. Alcohol licences and Taxi licences.

Mr Haskell offered to review the membership and bring a report back to the Committee in six months.

It was agreed to keep the structure of the sub committees as they were and to review after six months. It was also agreed that in the membership of Group E, Councillor D Tomes be replaced by Councillor Lee Mason.

## **22 Licensing Act 2003 – A Special Policy Within the Statement of Licensing Policy (AI 4)**

(TAKE IN REPORT)

The Deputy Licensing Officer introduced his report and made a number of amendments to his report and Statement of Licensing Policy.

The amendments were:

In the report - Page 3 – first paragraph remove words (Section 18(c) of the Act) and replace with Para 3.19 Guidance.  
In the Statement of Guidance

6.9.1 – the last line – between the words ‘approve variations’ – insert the word ‘major’

6.9.2 second para– delete the words ‘this has resulted in’ and replace with ‘There has been’

6.9.2 third para – delete the last sentence

6.10.1 third bullet point after ‘Winston Churchill Avenue’ insert the word ‘to King Richard 1 Road and’

**RESOLVED that the Committee (1) approve the draft amendment to the Statement of Licensing Policy and consult with those persons and responsible authorities listed in Section 5 of the Act;**

**(2) the Licensing Committee approve the timetable for the consultation period, the consideration of responses to the consultation process and submission of reports on the special policy to the Committee and Council.**

The meeting concluded at 10.45

Chair