

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF A MEETING of the Licensing Committee held on Tuesday 31 October 2006 at 9.30am in the Executive Meeting Room in the Guildhall, Portsmouth.

Present

Councillors Les Stevens (Chair)
David Stephen Butler (Vice-Chair)
Margaret Foster
Geoff Goble
Jacqui Hancock
Frank Jonas
Alan Langford
Lee Mason
Robin Sparshatt
Luke Stubbs
Debbie Tomes
April Windebank

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Malcolm Hey, Richard Jensen, Linda Symes and Gerald Vernon-Jackson.

18 Members' Interests in Accordance with Standing Order No 14 (AI 1)

There were no declarations of interest made.

19 Minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 15 September 2006 (AI 2)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 15 September 2006 be agreed and signed by the chair as a correct record.

20 Matters Arising From The Minutes (AI 3)

There were no matters arising.

21 Minutes of the Sub Committee meeting held on 3 October 2006 (AI 4)

(TAKE IN MINUTES)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meeting held on 3 October 2006 be agreed and signed by the chair of the meeting as a correct record.

22 Matters Arising From The Minutes (AI 5)

There were no matters arising.

23 Review of the Current Policy to Restrict the Number of Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licences and Review of Certain Existing Quality Control Measures for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (AI 6)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANGER)

An order procedure was circulated to members and those interested parties wishing to speak.

The chair, Councillor Les Stevens, welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Committee members and officers then introduced themselves.

The Licensing Manager, Mrs Nickki Humphrey's introduced her report regarding the review of the current policy to restrict the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences and the review of certain existing quality control measures for hackney carriage vehicles. She briefed members on the options available to them and reminded the Committee that they should have regard to the results and recommendations of the survey by Transportation Planning International Ltd (TPI) and consider the adoption of a policy of quantity control.

Mr Paul McKee, (an Associate of TPI) presented the results of the survey and Ms Jenny Leggett (Research Director of TPI) provided a presentation on the public consultation process.

Deputations were heard from Viv Young (Citywide Taxis), Carolyn Holmes (Streamline Taxis), John Spiker (Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietor), Malcolm Wickham (General Manager of Aqua Cars), Frank Dyson (Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietor) and David Hungate (Chair, Portsmouth Federation of Taxi Cabs) all commenting on various aspects of the report. Deputations were due to be heard from John Ferre and Norman Thomas (both Hackney Carriage Vehicle Proprietors) but they did not speak.

DECISIONS:

The Committee agreed to:

- i Retain the existing policy of the Committee by limiting the quantity of hackney carriage vehicle licences to 234**
- ii Amend the existing quality control policy so as to permit any suitably adapted fully wheelchair accessible vehicle (including those vehicles which meet the Public Carriage Office specification - i.e. "London style" cabs) to be no more than 4 years old on initial licensing and to remain licensed as a hackney carriage vehicle for**

up to 12 years providing it is considered to be in good mechanical and cosmetic condition

- iii Amend the existing hackney carriage vehicle policy for suitably adapted fully wheelchair accessible vehicles so that any such vehicle should meet the minimum standard of nearside loading for any wheelchair**

24 Registration of Motor Salvage Operators – Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001 and the Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002 (AI 7)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE LICENSING MANAGER)

Mrs Humphrey's introduced her report and informed members of the statutory requirement for local authorities to undertake the function of registering motor salvage operators as a measure to assist the Police with the control of vehicle crime. She outlined the steps necessary to carry out the process and the proposed fees for registration.

DECISIONS:

The Committee agreed that:

- i The provisions of Part 1 of the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001 and the Motor Salvage Operators Regulations 2002 be noted;**
- ii The City Solicitor be authorised to administer and otherwise deal with applications;**
- iii The City Solicitor be authorised to approve, to renew, to refuse to grant, to refuse to renew or to cancel registrations at his discretion;**
- iv In such cases where an applicant has been given notice of a proposal to refuse to grant, renew or cancel a registration and where that applicant has given notice that he wishes to make representations about the proposal, the matter will be referred to the Licensing Committee or one of its sub-committees for determination; and**
- v That a registration fee of £70 for the grant or renewal of a registration will be charged.**

25 Recent Prosecutions – Licensing Matters (AI 8)

(TAKE IN REPORT BY THE SENIOR ENFORCEMENT OFFICER)

DECISION:

The report was noted.

The meeting concluded at 11.55am.

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Signed by the Chair.