

# **GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Turner (Chair), Councillor Sareva (Vice Chair), Councillors Brundin, Clarkson, Cook, Goddard, Keen, Royce and Young (substituting for Councillor Williams).

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** William Reed, Daniel Smith and Lois Stock (Legal and Democratic Services Business Unit), Jill Cramer and Phil Pirouet (Taxi Licensing – Transport and Parking Business Unit), Neil Bacon and Kevin Keating (Environmental Health Business Unit)

## **14. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Williams (Councillor Young substituted).

## **15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **16. URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

## **17. MINUTES**

Resolved to confirm as a correct record the following minutes:-

(1) General Purposes Licensing Committee held on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2006;

(2) General Purposes Licensing Committee held on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2006.

## **18. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF – APPLICATION FOR INCREASE**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated now appended), which sought an increase in fares for hackney carriages within the City.

Resolved to:-

(1) Agree to the variation to the hackney carriage tariff in accordance with the application submitted by the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association;

- (2) Note that the proposed variation was subject to a period of public consultation;
- (3) Authorise the Legal and Democratic Business Manager and Transport and Parking Business Manager to carry out the statutory process of consultation needed to vary hackney carriage fares.

## **19. HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANKS**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) regarding negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council about the provision of additional hackney carriage ranks.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Support the Transport and Parking Business Manager in the negotiations with the County Council for the provision of an additional hackney carriage rank in Castle Street, with general support for additional ranks elsewhere in the City;
- (2) Ask that this resolution be sent to the Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Transport;
- (3) Request a report concerning the progress of negotiations for the next meeting.

## **20. HACKNEY CARRIAGE DEMAND STUDY**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the Hackney Carriage Demand Study report that had been prepared in order to determine whether there was currently any unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages in Oxford.

Paul McKee (Transport Planning International) presented the Hackney Carriage Demand Study to the Committee. He explained the background to it, the method by which information was collected and collated, and the conclusions that were subsequently drawn from it. The study concluded that there was unmet demand for hackney carriages within Oxford, and that this could be satisfied by the provision of one extra hackney carriage licence. The City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association (COLTA) was in agreement with this proposal.

Resolved:-

- (1) To issue one additional hackney carriage vehicle licence in order to meet current unmet demand for the services of hackney carriages in Oxford;

- (2) That applications for the one licence should be invited from those people who had held a hackney carriage driving licence with this authority for a minimum of five years (dated to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2006), had not accepted any formal cautions or been convicted of any criminal offences within the past five years, and had not received any sanction from the Licensing Sub Committee within the last three years;
- (3) That the name of the successful applicant should be selected at random by drawing names by lot from the complete list of applicants at a meeting of the full Council. Any selection would be made subject to verification that the applicant met the agreed standard and conditions, and the result would not be announced until verification had been completed;
- (4) That three standby applicants should be selected to be sealed in individual numbered envelopes and used in order of draw only if the successful applicant did not meet the conditions or was unable to fulfil the criteria, and that these would be destroyed without opening together with the other unsuccessful applications after the expiry of 15 months (to allow 3 months for licensing plus the 12 month licensing period).
- (5) That a programme of specialist driver training in, and understanding of, disability awareness be introduced;
- (6) That in line with current Government guidance a further survey into unmet demand should be carried out during 2009.

**21. SWIVEL SEATS IN HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND REAR LOADING WHEELCHAIR ACCESS.**

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the provision of swivel seats in hackney carriages.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Make no changes to the requirement that hackney carriages licensed by Oxford City Council were required to be fitted with a swivel seat (with the existing exemption in respect of any vehicle already licensed);
- (2) Make the following additions to hackney carriage regulations:-
  - (a) Section F – Type of Vehicle – “It must be understood that although the conditions of fitness set out may have been complied with, approval will be withheld if the Council is of the opinion that the vehicle is unsuitable for use as a hackney carriage”;
  - (b) Regulations covering the provision of wheelchair facilities – “Only in exceptional circumstances will a vehicle with rear loading wheelchair access be granted a licence”;

- (3) Require that proprietors of hackney carriages displayed a notice (in a form prescribed and provided by the Transport and Parking Business Manager), that a hackney carriage had a swivel seat available.

## **22. STREET TRADING – BONN SQUARE REDEVELOPMENT**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the future of three street trading pitches affected by the redevelopment of Bonn Square.

John Dykes (proprietor of the daytime hot food stall at Bonn Square), addressed the Committee on this issue and expressed a wish to continue to trade from the site.

Resolved to:-

- (1) Defer the decision to the next meeting in order first to seek the views of the Central, South and West Area Committee;
- (2) Relocate the current street traders (to a site to be determined), whilst the redevelopment of Bonn Square took place;
- (3) Grant a temporary extension to the present street trading consents whilst the redevelopment of Bonn Square and the consultation with the Area Committee took place.

## **23. STREET TRADING – REQUEST TO EXTEND TRADING HOURS**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning a request from street trading consent holders to extend the trading hours for the night-time sale of hot food.

Resolved to confirm that the current finish time for evening street trading consents should remain at 3.00am.

## **24. STREET TRADING – LITTLE CLARENDON STREET**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) concerning the redesignation of Little Clarendon Street from a “Prohibited” to a “Consent” street.

Resolved to authorise the Environmental Health Business Manager to carry out the required consultation (including the relevant Area Committees), prior to the Council considering the making of a formal resolution in favour of a redesignation.

#### **24. FEES FOR CONTINENTAL MARKET, BROAD STREET**

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) that proposed a revision of the fees payable for the Continental Market and similar events.

Resolved to revise the street trading charge made for the continental market in Broad Street, and any other similar trading operations, to a charge per 2 metre frontage based on a daily apportionment of the prevailing weekly street trading charge.

#### **25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved to note the following meeting date:

- Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

The meeting started at 9.45am and ended at 11.30am.