

# EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2007

## 48. RICKSHAW AND TAXI LICENSING SCRUTINY REVIEW

The Head of Legal and Democratic Services submitted a report (previously circulated now appended), presenting the findings and recommendations of the rickshaw and taxi licensing review group.

The Chair took the meeting through the report to allow the Committee to raise comments and to ask questions.

Resolved to recommend as follows to the General Purposes Licensing Committee in relation to the recommendations set out in the report:

Recommendation 1 – that the Council lobby government and local MP's to introduce a national scheme for licensing rickshaws: **Agreed.**

Recommendation 2 – that the Council places on record support for rickshaws in Oxford: **Agreed.**

Recommendation 3 – that the Council should consult stakeholders and members of the public on the issue of hackney carriage licence number restrictions:

Members discussed this in some before agreeing to ask the review group to consider this issue further, for a more objective assessment, taking into account the experiences of other local authorities. It was also suggested that the review group might consult further with taxi operatives for a more detailed assessment of how they might be affected by the proposals.

Recommendation 4 – that the Council should ensure that hackney carriage plates are non-transferable and are returned to the Council when the holder no longer wishes to work as a taxi driver: **Agreed the recommendation.**

(Members noted the legal advice on this recommendation which stated that any unreasonable application of this policy by the Council might be deemed unlawful. The application of this recommendation would always be subject to the clarification of the legal issues).

Recommendation 5 - If an individual has previously owned and sold or transferred a hackney carriage plate then they should not be eligible to receive another hackney carriage plate from the Council. **Agreed the recommendation.**

(Members noted the legal advice that the recommendation could be subject to challenge).

Recommendation 6 – that the Council introduces a voluntary code of practice for rickshaw operators and drivers. Agreed the recommendation as amended by the Committee to indicate that although a DVLA driving licence was not required, rickshaw operators and drivers should successfully complete the cycling proficiency test to level 3 of the National Standard for cycle training.