

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Monday 14th June 2010

COUNCILLORS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: The Chair (Councillor Cook), the Vice-Chair (Clark Brundin), Councillors Michael Gotch, Bryan Keen, Mark Mills, David Williams and Nuala Young.

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR THE WHOLE OF THE MEETING: Mathew Metcalfe and Daniel Smith (Law and Governance), Tony Payne and Julian Alison (Environmental Development).

OFFICERS PRESENT FOR PART OF THE MEETING: Jill Cramer (Environmental Development) and Liz Richardson (Halcrows).

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillors Rae Humberstone, Graham Jones and Mark Lygo.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mark Mills declared a personal interest in item 7 on the agenda (Proposal by Councillor Morton for Street Trading in Dawson Street, Cowley Road and Circus Street), as he was a resident in the street (Minute 21 refers).

17. HACKNEY CARRIAGE UNMET DEMAND SURVEY

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed the results of the unmet demand survey that was carried out between October and December 2009.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To accept the conclusions of the Hackney Carriage Demand Survey report prepared by Halcrow Group Limited, that there was currently no significant unmet demand for hackney carriages;
- (b) To advise Council that, having considered the report of Halcrow Group Limited, the Committee was satisfied that there was currently no significant unmet demand for services of hackney carriages and to recommend Council resolve to maintain the Council's policy of quantity control on the number of hackney carriage licenses;
- (c) That a further demand survey be commissioned in 2012;
- (d) To request the Head of Environmental Development to submit a report to a future meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee on the issue of Taxi Marshalls in Oxford and funding options for them.

18. UPDATE ON TAXI LICENSING ACTIVITY APRIL 2009 – MARCH 2010

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed the Committee of the progress made by the Taxi Licensing Function between April 2009 and March 2010.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the report;
- (b) To request the Head of Environmental Health to provide a verbal update to the next Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee, giving details of the reasons why the appeal against the Sub-Committees decision had been upheld.

19. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE CRITERIA

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to review, amend and update the criteria for licensed vehicles.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the report;
- (b) To adopt the amended criteria for private hire vehicles as set out in appendix one of the report;
- (c) To reduce the minimum engine size of a licensed private hire vehicle to 1375cc;
- (d) To not change the criteria allowing a vehicle to carry less than 4 passengers;
- (e) Not to remove the requirement of the removal of a seat in vehicles that carry more than 4 passengers;
- (f) To adopt the amendments to the criteria for hackney carriages as outlined in paragraph 30 of the report;
- (g) To amend the criteria for first aid kits for both private hire and hackney carriage vehicles in line with Health and Safety requirements;
- (h) To review again in two years the criteria for hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.

20. APPOINTMENT OF NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE STANDS AT LONDON ROAD, HEADINGTON

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to appoint two new hackney carriage stands in London Road, Headington.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To note that no representations had been received during the consultation period;
- (b) To approve two new stands for one hackney carriage on each stand on London road, Headington as shown on the plans attached to appendix one of the report;
- (c) To remove the adoption of the current stand on London Road, Headington.

21. PROPOSAL BY COUNCILLOR MORTON FOR STREET TRADING IN DAWSON STREET, COWLEY ROAD AND CIRCUS STREET

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which responded to a proposal made by Councillor Morton concerning Dawson Street, Cowley Road and Circus Street.

Councillor Mark Mills declared a personal interest, as he was a resident in the street.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To note the report;
- (b) Not to introduce new categories of weekend and single day consents for street trading on Dawson Street.

22. REVIEW OF SEX SHOP LICENCE FEE

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to review the fee charged for the grant/renewal/transfer of sex shop licence.

The Committee agreed to request the Head of Environmental Development to submit a further report to the next General Purposes Licensing Committee, proving details of the costs to administer and enforce such establishments, in order to determine an appropriate fee.

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that it would meet in the Town Hall at 5.00pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 13th October 2010
Tuesday 1st March 2011

The meeting started at 5.45 pm and finished at 7.20 pm