

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Wednesday 13th October 2010

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

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

24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillors Rae Humberstone, Graham Jones, Bryan Keen and David Williams.

25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

26. HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF – APPLICATION FOR INCREASE

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed an application for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariff.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To approve the variation to the Hackney Carriage Tariff in accordance with the report submitted by City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab association (COLTA);
- (b) To note that the proposed variation was subject to a period of public consultation;
- (c) To authorise the Head of Environmental Development to carry out the statutory process of consultation required to vary hackney carriage fees.

27. REQUEST TO LICENCE A HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed a request to licence a horse drawn carriage as an omnibus.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To support in principle the licensing of horse drawn carriages;

- (b) To request the Head of Environmental Development to submit a further report to the General Purposes Licensing Committee in March 2011 following discussions with the Oxfordshire County Council as to the viability of roads and stands.

28. PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE EXEMPTION

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval for the criteria for private hire vehicles that were granted exemption from displaying licence identification.

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Note the report;
- (b) Adopt the amended criteria for Private Hire Vehicles as set out in appendix two of the report.

29. TAXI MARSHALS – FEEDBACK FROM PILOT SCHEME

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed the Committee of the feedback from Taxi Drivers regarding the three week trialling of Taxi Marshals in the City Centre.

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Note the report;
- (b) Welcome the positive feedback following the pilot Taxi Marshalling Scheme;
- (c) Note that no further funding was available to extend the pilot scheme and that officers and Councillor Cook would work together to explore possible alternative avenues of funding.

30. FEES FOR THE ADDITIONAL LICENSING SCHEME FOR HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HMO'S) IN OXFORD

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval for the fees for the HMO licences that result from the City Executive Board's decision to adopt an Additional Licensing Scheme for HMO's in Oxford.

The Committee noted that the Head of Environmental Development withdrew this report from the agenda the reason being that HMO fees was an executive function and as such would be dealt with by the City Executive Board.

31. UPDATE ON TAXI LICENSING ACTIVITY – APRIL 2010-AUGUST 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 and August 2010.

The Committee agreed to:

- (a) Note the report;
- (b) Support any surplus funds in the Taxi Account to be used for additional staffing to cover the increase in private hire drivers and private hire vehicles and if possible towards the Taxi Marshalling Scheme.

32. REVIEW OF SEX SHOP 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:

- (a) Retain the current fee levels of £8,000 for the grant or renewal of a Sex Shop Licence. This fee to cover all of the considerations and allows for a small surplus for contingency costs;
- (b) Request the Head of Environmental Development in conjunction with the Head of Law and Governance to devise an instalment plan for the payment of the annual fee and attach conditions to such a plan relating to penalties for the non-payment of an instalment;
- (c) Implement a condition on any instalment plan that an applicant must apply for a renewal of the licence in the manner prescribed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 Schedule 3, Paragraphs 8-11.

33. MINUTES

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To approve the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting held on 9th June 2010;
- (b) To approve the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting held on 14th June 2010.

34. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Tuesday 1st March 2011

The meeting started at 6.00 pm and finished at 6.55 pm