

Agenda

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General Purposes Licensing Committee

Date: **Monday 28 May 2012**

Time: **6.00 pm**

Place: **Oxford Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

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General Purposes Licensing Committee

Membership

Chair	Councillor Colin Cook	Jericho and Osney;
Vice-Chair	Councillor Michael Gotch	Wolvercote;
	Councillor Anne-Marie Canning	Carfax;
	Councillor Mary Clarkson	Marston;
	Councillor Van Coulter	Barton and Sandhills;
	Councillor John Goddard	Wolvercote;
	Councillor Mark Lygo	Churchill;
	Councillor Helen O'Hara	Cowley;
	Councillor Gwynneth Royce	St. Margaret's;
	Councillor David Williams	Iffley Fields;

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AGENDA

Pages

1 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2012/13

2 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2012/13

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

The Quroum for this meeting is 4.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors serving on the Committee are asked to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have in any of the following agenda items. Guidance on declaring interests is attached to this agenda.

5 POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The Head of Law and Governance will report on this item.

6 GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

1 - 4

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report, the purpose of which is to establish Sub-Committees for the 2012-13 Council Year, to deal with the casework flowing from the Committee's own responsibilities.

The Committee is asked:

- (a) To establish a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2012-13, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical;
- (b) To establish a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2012-13, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical.

7 LAW COMMISSION CONSULTATION - REFORMING THE LAW ON TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE SERVICES

5 - 8

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report, the purpose of which is to consider and respond to the Law Commission's consultation on reform on the law of taxi and private hire services.

The Committee is asked to consider the information contained in this report and delegate authority to the Head of Environmental Development to draft a response in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair and circulate to Committee members before submitting to the Law Commission.

8 A REVIEW OF THE AUDIO AND VISUAL RECORDING SCHEME AGREED FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

9 - 12

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report the purpose of which is to review the audio and visual recording scheme for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles following receipt of late views on the imminent introduction of the scheme.

The Committee is asked to either:

- (a) Suspend the introduction of the requirements for audio and visual recording equipment to be installed in licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles pending the results of further and more extensive consultation on the scheme,

Or,

- (b) Delete the existing requirement for audio and visual recording equipment to be installed in licensed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles from April 2012.

9 UPDATE ON TAXI LICENSING ACTIVITY - JANUARY - MARCH 2012

13 - 20

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report the purpose of which is to inform the Committee of activity undertaken by the Taxi Licensing Function between January 2012 and March 2012.

The Committee is asked:

- (a) To note the contents of the report; and
- (b) To make any comments and recommendations regarding the future work of the Taxi Licensing Function.

10 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING VEHICLES - REVIEW OF EURO EMISSION STANDARD LEVELS AND VEHICLE AGE LIMITS

21 - 60

The Head of Law and Governance has submitted a report, the purpose of which is to seek approval to consult on the proposals to increase the rate of compliance for licensed vehicles to meet with the latest Euro Emission Levels and implement an upper age limit for licensed vehicles.

The Committee is asked:

- (a) To approve in principle the proposal to change the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle criteria in relation to vehicle emissions as set out in paragraph 8 of this report; and
- (b) To request the Head of Environmental Development carry out a consultation with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade as to the proposed changes, and provide details of any responses to the Committee at its next meeting.

11 DRAFT SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING POLICY - RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION

61 - 100

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report which details the responses received following consultation on the Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy.

The Committee is asked:

- (a) To request the Head of Environmental Development to carry out an analysis of the City in order to assess the “characteristics” of all potential “relevant localities”, and:
- (b) To receive a further report following that assessment with a view to identifying any localities where a limit on the number of sex establishments may be considered appropriate by the Authority.

12 STREET TRADING CONSENT FEES 2012/13 - FURTHER CONSULTATION

101 - 118

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report the purpose of which is to report back to Committee on the responses to the further consultation on the proposed fee for street trading outside of the City Centre and to agree a fee for Street Trading Consents in these locations.

The Committee is asked

- (a) To consider the responses to the consultation, and
- (b) To agree to implement the recommended fee structure as set out in paragraph 1 of the report for daytime street trading, for sites outside the City Centre.

13 UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2011 - APRIL 2012

119 - 130

The Head of Environmental Development has submitted a report, the purpose of which is to inform the Committee of activity undertaken by the Miscellaneous Licensing Function between October 2011 - April 2012 and future developments.

The Committee is asked to

- (a) To note the contents of the report, and
- (b) To make comments and recommendations regarding the future work of the Miscellaneous Licensing Function.

14 MINUTES

131 - 136

Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2012.

15 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Committee will meet on the following dates at the Town Hall:

Wednesday 17th October 2012

Tuesday 19th February 2013

DECLARING INTERESTS

General duty

You must declare any disclosable pecuniary interests when the meeting reaches the item on the agenda headed “Declarations of Interest” or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.

What is a disclosable pecuniary interest?

Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to your employment; sponsorship (ie payment for expenses incurred by you in carrying out your duties as a councillor or towards your election expenses); contracts; land in the Council’s area; licences for land in the Council’s area; corporate tenancies; and securities. These declarations must be recorded in each councillor’s Register of Interests which is publicly available on the Council’s website.

Declaring an interest

Where any matter disclosed in your Register of Interests is being considered at a meeting, you must declare that you have an interest. You should also disclose the nature as well as the existence of the interest.

If you have a disclosable pecuniary interest, after having declared it at the meeting you must not participate in discussion or voting on the item and must withdraw from the meeting whilst the matter is discussed.

Members’ Code of Conduct and public perception

Even if you do not have a disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter, the Members’ Code of Conduct says that a member “must serve only the public interest and must never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person including yourself” and that “you must not place yourself in situations where your honesty and integrity may be questioned”. What this means is that the matter of interests must be viewed within the context of the Code as a whole and regard should continue to be paid to the perception of the public.

¹ Disclosable pecuniary interests that must be declared are not only those of the member her or himself but also those of the member’s spouse, civil partner or person they are living with as husband or wife or as if they were civil partners.

