

Agenda

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General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committee

Date: **Monday 26 June 2017**

Time: **5.30 pm**

Place: **Barrister's Room - Town Hall**

For any further information please contact:

Sarah Claridge, Committee and Member Services Officer

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As a matter of courtesy, if you intend to record the meeting please let the Committee Services Officer know how you wish to do this before the start of the meeting.

General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committee

Membership

Chair Councillor Colin Cook

Vice-Chair

Councillor Chewe Munkonge

Councillor Tom Landell Mills

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AGENDA

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| 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST | |
| 3 PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED AT THE MEETING Guidance on the procedure to be followed is attached. | 7 - 12 |
| 4 MINUTES Recommendation: That the minutes of the HCPH meeting held on 20 March 2017 be approved as a true and accurate record. | 13 - 14 |
| 5 EXEMPT MATTERS If the Sub-Committee wishes to exclude the press and the public from the meeting during consideration of any aspects of the preceding or following agenda items it will be necessary for the Sub-Committee to pass a resolution in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 specifying the grounds on which their presence could involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in specific paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. | |
| <u>PART II</u> <u>EXEMPT BUSINESS</u> | |
| In accordance with paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • information relating to any individual • information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual • business affairs of a person other than the Council • information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | |
| 6 APPLICATION TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGE & PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES | 15 - 22 |
| 7 CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES Recommendation: That the confidential minutes of the HCPH meeting held on 20 March 2017 be approved as a true and accurate record. | 23 - 24 |
| 8 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS | |

The dates of future meetings (if required) are:

Monday 7 August 2017

Monday 18 September 2017

Monday 30 October 2017

Monday 11 December 2017

All meetings start at 5.30pm.

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; licenses 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.

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

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OXFORD CITY COUNCIL

General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committee

HEARING PROCEDURE for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire licensing, Street Trading consents and Sex Establishment licenses

The Meeting

The General Purposes Licensing Casework Sub-Committee (Sub-Committee) consists of three members of the General Purposes Licensing Committee. With the consent of the applicant, or person who is subject of the hearing, the Sub-Committee can consist of two councillors. The Sub-Committee is responsible for reaching a decision upon the application having heard representations and considering all relevant material presented.

All members must be present throughout the hearing. If for any reason a member needs to withdraw during the proceedings the hearing should be temporarily adjourned until the member returns, or the member should not participate any further in the hearing. Any departure should therefore be avoided wherever possible. A member who arrives after the hearing has commenced is not allowed to participate in that hearing.

Closed and Open Hearings

Street Trading hearings shall normally take place in public. However, the Sub-Committee may exclude the press and the public from all or part of a hearing where exempt information (*section 100A(4) Local Government Act 1972*) is concerned and the Sub Committee considers that the public interest in doing so outweighs the public interest in the hearing, or that part of the hearing, taking place in public.

Taxi licensing hearings will usually be considered in private as cases coming before the Sub-Committee involve private and personal information relating to the case subject. Most taxi hearings will therefore be held in private and will be treated as confidential and not for publication.

Declaring Interests

To avoid any suggestion of bias, members should not take part in any hearing if they have any interest, financial or otherwise, in the outcome, or if they have any connection with or have been approached by a person who is the subject of an item on the Sub-Committee's agenda. Members must take care not to be

influenced by their role on any other council committee. Licensing decisions must be taken strictly on the criteria allowed by the relevant legislation.

The Paperwork

Officers of the Licensing Authority (the City Council) will prepare the paperwork for the application that is to be heard by the Sub-Committee. The paperwork will include:-

- A summary of the application or matter for determination, the representations received and of any other relevant material
- A copy of the application and any other supporting material supplied by the applicant.

for Street Trading hearing only:

- Any observations on the application or matter made by the Police and/or other technical advisor to the Sub-Committee
- Any representations of objection to the application

Attendees at the Hearing

Any party may be assisted or represented by any person whether or not that person is legally qualified.

For Street Trading hearings only:

Observations of Police and/or Technical advisors

Where appropriate the police or technical advisors to the Sub Committee may make their observations.

The Sub-Committee may ask questions of the Police and/or technical advisors.

Other parties may ask factual questions of the Police and/or technical advisors. Cross-examination will only be permitted with the consent of the Chair.

Objector's case

Where written representations of objection have been received the Sub-Committee will have regard to those representations. Any objectors can attend the hearing to speak in support of their written objection. However, the Sub Committee will not require repetition of points already made in written representations. Only objectors who have sent written representation during the consultation period can speak.

Where a number of objectors have made representations which are similar in nature the Sub-Committee will expect a spokesperson to be appointed to represent the group.

The Sub-Committee may ask questions of any objector.

Other parties may ask factual questions of any objector. Cross-examination will only be permitted with the consent of the Chair.

Non-Attendance of the Case Subject/Applicant

If a case subject/ applicant has had reasonable notice of the hearing fails to attend either in person or through their representative, the Sub- Committee can proceed with the hearing in their absence.

The Sub-Committee may grant an adjournment if a reasonable explanation has been given for failure to attend or an adjournment has been specifically requested, and there is no reason to think that the person would fail to attend on another occasion. If a case subject has expressed an intention not to attend, or has repeatedly failed to attend, it would be proper for the Sub-Committee to hear the case in their absence.

The Sub-Committee should be prepared to adjourn proceedings if questions arise which cannot be dealt with satisfactorily in the case subject's absence. In deciding whether to hear the case in the absence of the case subject, the Sub-Committee should take into account whether they have sent a representative to act on their behalf and whether delay in hearing the case is likely to result in hardship (for example, where the case subject has stated that his or her need is urgent).

Conduct of Proceedings

The role of the Chair is to control the proceedings. All questions must be put through the Chair.

Members of the Sub-Committee will have read and familiarised themselves with the papers and issues. The Sub-Committee does not therefore require points to be made or repeated at length.

The hearing shall take the form of a discussion managed through the Chair. Formal cross- examination shall not be permitted unless the Chair considers that cross-examination in a particular circumstance would assist. In exercising this

discretion to permit cross-examination, the Chair must have regard to the rules of natural justice and the right to a fair hearing.

In considering an application, the Sub-Committee may take into account documents or other information relied on by a party in support of their application or representation. Copies of the information should be supplied to the Licensing Authority at least two working days before the hearing or, with the consent of the Chair after that time.

If a person attending the hearing is acting in a manner that the Chair considers is disruptive, the Chair will require that person to leave the hearing and may:

- (a) refuse to permit that person to return; or
- (b) permit him / her to return only on such conditions as the Sub-Committee may specify.

Before the end of the hearing any person who was required to leave the hearing may submit in writing any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.

Order of Proceedings

The Chair commences the hearing by introducing themselves and the other Sub-Committee members. The Chair asks all of the other parties present to introduce themselves and explain in what capacity they are attending.

Licensing officers will present the report relating to the application or matter to be heard by the Sub-Committee. They shall say who the applicant is, what the application is for and explain the paperwork before the Sub-Committee.

- The person appearing before the Sub-Committee may ask questions of the licensing officers or their report.
- Members of the Sub-Committee may ask question of the licensing officer on their presentation.

The person appearing before the Sub-Committee will present their case.

- Licensing officers may ask questions of the person appearing before the Sub-Committee.
- Members of the Sub-Committee may ask question of the person appearing before them.

For Street Trading hearings only:

If present, Police, technical advisors and objectors will present their case.

- Licensing officers may ask questions of the person appearing before the Sub-Committee.

- Members of the Sub-Committee may ask question of the person appearing before them.

All parties will be given the opportunity to summarise briefly their key points. The order shall be:-

- Licensing officer
- Objectors (for Street Trading hearings)
- Police and/or technical advisors (for Street trading hearings)
- Applicant

At the end of the submissions, the Chair will announce that the hearing is adjourned while the Sub-Committee deliberate in private. The Sub-Committee will be accompanied by the committee clerk and legal advisor during their deliberations. All other officers, applicants/ case subjects and members of the public will leave the room.

If it is necessary to recall any party for clarification of any point, then all parties should be recalled.

The Chair will either:

- Announce the decision of the Sub-Committee and confirm that a written determination with reasons will be sent to the parties by a given date.
- or
- Close the hearing and confirm that once a decision has been made a written determination with reasons will be sent to the parties by a given date.

The person appearing before the Sub-Committee shall be advised orally of their 21 day right of appeal, (starting from the date of the letter) and that the decision and rights of appeal shall be notified to them in writing.

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**Minutes of a meeting of the
HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
on Monday 20 March 2017**



Committee members:

Councillor Cook (Chair)

Councillor Clarkson (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Landell Mills

Officers:

Emma Thompson, Licensing Compliance Officer

Jeremy Franklin, Lawyer

Sarah Claridge, Committee Services Officer

57. Apologies for Absence

None

58. Declarations of Interest

None

59. Procedure to be followed at the meeting

The Procedure Guidance was noted.

60. Minutes

The Sub-Committee resolved to APPROVE the minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2017 as a true and accurate record.

61. Exempt Matters

The Sub-Committee resolved that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business on the grounds that their presence would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

The Sub-Committee considered matters relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licensing in private.

The Sub-Committee had 1 case before it. It **granted** the application to drive Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

62. Confidential Minutes

The Sub-Committee resolved to APPROVE the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2017 as a true and accurate record.

63. Application to drive Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles

The Head of Community Services submitted a report detailing an application to drive Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

The Sub-Committee resolved to **grant** the application to drive Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles.

64. Dates of Future Meetings

The Sub-Committee noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 19 April 2017 at 5.30pm.

The meeting started at 5.30 pm and ended at 5.57 pm

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 3, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 3, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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