

## GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

**Monday 28 May 2012**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillors Cook (Chair), Gotch (Vice-Chair), Canning, Clarkson, Coulter, Goddard, O'Hara, Royce and Williams.

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Mathew Metcalfe (Democratic and Electoral Services), Daniel Smith (Law and Governance), Tony Payne (Licensing and Development Manager), Julian Alison (Licensing Team Leader) and Samantha Howell (Licensing Officer)

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE COUNCIL YEAR 2012/13**

The Committee agreed to elect Councillor Colin Cook as Chair for the Council Year 2012/13.

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

The Committee agreed to elect Councillor Mike Gotch as Vice-Chair for the Council Year 2012/13.

### **3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Lygo.

### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

### **5. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE COMMITTEE**

The Head of Law and Governance informed the Committee that full Council had agreed to change the reporting route concerning licensing policy, namely that consideration of reports concerning the making of, or any changes to policies would now be undertaken by the City Executive Board which would then make recommendations to full Council which had responsibility for setting policies and any changes.

Members of the Committee were of the understanding that licensing policies etc. would still come to the General Purposes Licensing Committee, to allow it to make comments, which would be passed to the City Executive Board to consider when making its recommendations to full Council.

The Committee agreed to inform the City Executive Board of its wish to continue to receive reports concerning draft policies and proposed changes to existing policies before they were presented to the City Executive Board, as Members felt that they were best placed in the first instance to make comments as they

undertook licensing responsibilities such as attending hearings etc. on a regular basis.

## **6. GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE - APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Head of Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to establish Sub-Committees for the 2012/13 Council Year, to deal with the casework flowing from the Committees own responsibilities.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To establish a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub committee for the Council Year 2012/13, and agreed its powers and duties, and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical as follows:

Councillor Mary Clarkson (Councillor Van Coulter as substitute)  
Councillor Colin Cook  
Councillor Gwynneth Royce (Councillor John Goddard as substitute)

- (b) To establish a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2012/13 and agreed its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical as follows:

Councillor Colin Cook  
Councillor Van Coulter  
Councillor Michael Gotch  
Councillor Gwynneth Royce

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

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to consider and respond to the Law Commission's consultation on reform of the law of taxi and private hire services.

Julian Alison introduced the report and took the Committee through the proposals.

The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Head of Environmental Development to draft a response in conjunction with the Chair and Vice-Chair and to circulate this draft to Members of the Committee before it being submitted to the Law Commission.

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

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was 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.

Tony Payne introduced the report and took Members through the recommendations.

The Committee agreed to 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 and the outcome of the Law Commission's review on reforming the law on taxi and private hire services.

## **9. UPDATE ON TAXI LICENSING ACTIVITY - JANUARY - MARCH 2012**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to inform the Committee of activity undertaken by the Taxi Licensing function between January and March 2012.

Julian Alison introduced the report.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

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

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to seek approval to consult on the proposals to increase the rate of compliance for licensed vehicles in order to meet the latest Euro Emission Levels and to implement an upper age limit for licensed vehicles.

Julian Alison introduced the report. The Committee also heard Committees from the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade.

The Committee agreed to request the Head of Environmental Development to carryout consultation with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade on the proposed changes and a five year limit for new licences and an eight year limit for re-licences, and to provide the outcome from this consultation to the next scheduled meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee in October 2012.

The proposed new wording would read:

### New Vehicle Licences:

- (a) Any vehicle must not be older than 5 years of age at the date of the grant of the vehicle licence.

### Renewal of existing Vehicle Licences:

- (b) From 1st January 2013, all vehicles submitted for a licence renewal will need to be Euro 4 Emissions compliant, which in effect means that any vehicle first registered prior to 1st October 2006 will not meet current regulations.
- (c) From 1st January 2014 no vehicle shall be re-licensed if it has reached 8 years of age from the date of first registration.

## **11. DRAFT SEX ESTABLISHMENT LICENSING POLICY - RESPONSES TO CONSULTATION**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed the responses received following consultation on the Draft Sex Establishment Licensing Policy.

Tony Payne introduced the report.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To request the Head of Environmental Development to carry out an analysis of the City on order to assess the “characteristics” of all potential “relevant localities”:
- (b) To receive a further report following the outcome of recommendation (a) above, 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**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) the purpose of which was to report the responses received to further consultation on the proposed fee for street trading outside of the City centre and to seek agreement to a fee for Street Trading Consents in these locations.

Samantha Howell introduced the report.

The Committee agreed having considered the responses to the consultation to agree to implement the recommended fee structure as set out in the report for daytime street trading for sites outside of the city centre.

## **13. UPDATE ON MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING ACTIVITY - OCTOBER 2011 - APRIL 2012**

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which informed the Committee of activity undertaken

by the Miscellaneous Licensing Function between October 2011 and April 2012 and any future developments.

Samantha Howell introduced the report.

The Committee agreed to note and welcome the report.

#### **14. MINUTES**

The Committee agreed to approve the minutes (previously circulated, now appended) of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2012.

#### **15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted that it would meet in the Town Hall, at 5.30pm or following the conclusion of the Licensing and Gambling Acts Committee, on the following dates:

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013

**The meeting started at 6.20 pm and ended at 8.15 pm**

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