

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Tuesday 1st March 2011

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

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

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillors Colin Cook (the Chair), and Nuala Young.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

38. UPDATE ON REQUEST TO LICENCE A HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE AS AN OMNIBUS

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which provided the Committee with an update regarding the request to licence a Horse Drawn Carriage as an Omnibus, following discussions with the Oxfordshire County Council as to the viability of roads and stands.

Jill Cramer introduced the report.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To request the Head of Environmental Development submit a further report to the next meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee, providing details as to the progression of this scheme following further discussions with Oxfordshire County Council;
- (b) To request the Head of Environmental Development give consideration to a reasonable fee to be charged to hold a licence as a proprietor of a Horse Drawn Carriage, a driver of a Horse Drawn Carriage and a guide of a Horse Drawn Carriage;
- (c) To approve the draft byelaws and conditions (Proprietor Conditions, Driver Conditions and Guide Conditions), as detailed in appendices two, three and four of the report.

39. CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION IN LICENSED VEHICLES

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which detailed a proposal for CCTV to be fitted into licensed Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles.

Julian Alison introduced the report.

Daniel Smith informed the Committee of a petition and e-mails received after the consultation had closed. He said that the petition, which was opposed to the introduction of CCTV in licensed vehicles for reasons of cost, privacy and that the scheme should be voluntary, consisted of approximately 100 signatures and that the e-mails, five in total also raised the same points. He said that the Committee had discretion on whether or not to take the petition and e-mails into consideration.

The Committee following a debate agreed:

- (a) To approve the implementation of CCTV as a mandatory regulation for all Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles licensed for the first time by Oxford City Council from 6th April 2012;
- (b) To approve the implementation of CCTV as a mandatory regulation for all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles licensed by Oxford City Council prior to 6th April 2012, allowing until 5th April 2015 for the equipment to be fitted to the vehicle;
- (c) To approve the reimbursement to the vehicle proprietor of a maximum of £100 towards the fitting costs of CCTV to the vehicle (upon proof of receipt of payment for the fitting of the CCTV equipment), such costs to be found from the Taxi Revenue Account, to any eligible proprietor who had been granted a licence for a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire vehicle between 6th April 2009 and 5th April 2012, restricted to no more that one payment per licenses vehicle;
- (d) To approve the Minimum Standard Specification as detailed in Appendix One to the report, with immediate effect*, for all vehicles to be fitted with CCTV either as a mandatory regulation, or if voluntarily fitted by a proprietor; (* this prevents anyone purchasing a system now and it not meeting the specification)
- (e) To approve the request from the Private Hire Trade members to the removal of the current requirement relating to “people carriers” or “vehicles permitted to carry 5 or more passengers” having to replace the manufactured rear window of the vehicle, if the vehicle is fitted with CCTV equipment meeting the minimum standard specification from 6th April 2012;
- (f) To approve to the request from COLTA relating to the showing of advertisement on a screen placed behind the driver, on the partition of the Hackney Carriage;

- (g) To request that the Guidelines relating to Hackney Carriage Advertisements as detailed in appendix two to the report, be incorporated within the criteria and regulations pertaining to Hackney Carriages licensed by Oxford City Council from 6th April 2012;
- (h) To request that the Hackney Carriage Internal Advertisement Criteria as detailed in appendix three to the report, and such information be incorporated within existing guidelines;
- (i) To request the Head of Environmental Development to submit a report to the next meeting of the General Purposes Licensing Committee informing Members as to the progression of the CCTV initiative following forthcoming Trade meetings;
- (j) To request the Head of Environmental Development submit a report to the next General Purposes Licensing Committee informing Members of any legal requirements associated with the use of CCTV in licensed vehicles, in particular with regard to data protection, human rights, and the Authorities storage of recorded footage obtained;
- (k) To request that the Head of Environmental Development submit a final report regarding the implementation of CCTV equipment in vehicles licensed by Oxford City Council, and submit as an appendix, the revisions to the guidelines, criteria, conditions and regulations relating to Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles licensed by Oxford City Council;
- (l) To request the Head of Environmental Development to make any necessary amendments and additions relating to the regulations of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles licenses by Oxford City Council to accommodate for the implementation of the CCTV initiative and any further issues rising from the planned Trade meeting in March 2011, and submit such amendments and additions to the General Purposes Licensing committee scheduled to be held in October 2011;
- (m) To request the Head of Environmental Development to submit a brief update report on the implementation of CCTV to the next meeting of the Committee.

40. UPDATE ON TAXI LICENSING ACTIVITY – SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 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 September and December 2010.

Julian Alison introduced the report.

The Committee agreed to note the report.

41. AMENDMENTS TO TAXI LICENSING REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval to the additions and amendments to the current Taxi Licensing regulations and guidelines.

Julian Alison introduced the report.

The Committee agreed:

- (a) To approve the additions and amendments to the regulations and guidelines criteria relating to the licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles, Drives and Operators;
- (b) To approve the additions and amendments to the Policy on the Relevance of Offences, Cautions and Convictions relating to licensing of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers and Operators;
- (c) To approve the amended Policy on the Relevance of Offences, Cautions and Convictions being incorporated into the forthcoming Taxi Licensing Policy, and in turn grant delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Development to immediately suspend a driver charged with any indecency offence, and that suspension be in force until the case was determined by either the Police or the Courts;
- (d) To recommend Council adopt the amended Policy on the Relevance of Offences, Cautions and Convictions.
- (e) To delegate authority to the Head of Environmental Development and the Head of Law and Governance to make any textual changes to the Regulations and Guidelines put forward in the report and to authorise the Head of Law and Governance to amend the Constitution accordingly.

42. ST. EBBES STREET TRADING SCHEME

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought approval to relocate street trading pitches from outside the front of the Westgate Centre/St. Ebbes Street.

Tony Payne introduced the report.

The Committee agreed to approve in principle the relocation of the three street trading pitches from outside the front of the Westgate Centre, subject to their being no financial costs to the Council.

43. LICENCE FEES 2011/12

The Head of Environmental Development submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended) which sought agreement to the license fees for 2011/12 where the Council had discretion over the level of fee charged.

Tony Payne introduced the report.

The Committee agreed:

(a) To note the license fees set by statute;

(b) To approve the license fees for 2011/12 as set out in the report.

44. MINUTES

The Committee agreed to approve the minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting held on 13th October 2010.

45. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

The meeting started at 5.45 pm and finished at 7.05 pm

This page is intentionally left blank