

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

Friday 20th January 2006

COUNCILLORS PRESENT: Councillor Brett (Chair), Councillors Armitage, Brundin (substituting for Councillor Campbell), Hollander (substituting for Councillor Goddard) and Sareva.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Lois Stock (Democratic Services Officer), Phil Pirouet and Paul Tawnley (Transport and Parking Business Unit); and Tony Payne (Environmental Health Business Unit).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Alan Woodward (City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association (COLTA).)

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies were received from Councillors Campbell (Councillor Brundin substituted), Goddard (Councillor Hollander substituted), and Muir.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

38 MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes (previously circulated) of the Committee's meeting held on 25TH November 2005 be confirmed as a correct record.

39 THE MOTOR SALVAGE OPERATORS REGULATIONS 2002

The Environmental Health Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended), concerning the Motor Salvage Operators' Regulations 2002.

Tony Payne explained that the Council had a statutory duty to register motor salvage operators working within the city, and to maintain a public register of them. A fee was payable by the applicant on the submission of an application for registration, and this was levied at the discretion of the local authority concerned. It was estimated that the cost to the Council of administering the registration scheme would be about £75 per registration.

Resolved:-

- (1) To note the report and the requirement for motor salvage operators to be registered;
- (2) To agree a registration fee of £75.

40 HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF – APPLICATION FOR INCREASE

The Transport and Parking Business Manager submitted a report (previously circulated, now appended), concerning an application for a variation to the hackney carriage tariff.

Phil Pirouet explained that it had been the usual practice to review the hackney carriage tariff on an annual basis; following proposals from the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab Association (COLTA). The same formula for calculating the increase had been in use for about 15 years. The changes had been calculated previously for a period of 12 months to the previous January, making them twelve months old; but on this occasion they had been calculated from January 2004 to October 2005 to bring the figures closer to the implementation date. Calculations for 2007 would be made using the 12 months to October 2006, when it was anticipated that the usual system would be back on track.

Alan Woodward (COLTA) explained that an increase of 5.6% had been suggested. The increase took into account inflation rates and any increase in fuel duty.

In answer to a question, Mr Pirouet explained that each local authority set its own fares, each following their own method of calculation. He could not say how neighbouring authorities agreed fares in their area. He reminded the Committee that every hackney carriage in Oxford was wheelchair accessible, and that this might not be the case in other places.

The Chair expressed some concern about the hackney carriage route from the station to east Oxford. He felt that hackney carriages should be allowed to use Queen Street after 10pm. Mr Woodward indicated that COLTA would support any lobbying of Oxfordshire County Council to allow this to take place.

Resolved:-

- (1) To agree, subject to consideration of any representations received, the variation to the hackney carriage tariff in accordance with the application submitted by the City of Oxford Licensed Taxicab association;

- (2) To authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to carry out the statutory process of consultation needed to vary hackney carriage fares;
- (3) To ask the Transport and Parking Business Manager to seek the agreement of Oxfordshire County Council for the use of Queen Street during Rate 2 times (after 10pm) by hackney carriages and private hire vehicles in order to shorten journey times and ease pressure on the taxi rank at the station.

The meeting started at 10am and ended at 10.20am.