

HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING


2. The powers and duties of a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee are set out in Annex 1 to this report. The powers and duties are worded differently to those that applied last year, in the interests of simplicity. The Sub-Committee was not last year responsible for setting licence fees. That responsibility was reserved to this Committee. The Sub-Committee is essentially a body that deals with casework.

3. Last year three members were appointed to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee must be politically balanced. If three members are appointed to serve on it this year, the political balance will need to be one Labour, one Liberal Democrat and one Green member. If the Committee wishes to appoint a different number of members, I will report orally on the political balance requirement.

4. The Sub-Committee will meet on the following dates, provided there is business to be transacted, and on other dates if there is urgent business to be taken that cannot wait until the next ordinary meeting:-

13th July 2006 – 10.00 am
12th October 2006 – 10.00 am
11th January 2007 – 10.00 am
19th April 2007 – 10.00 am.

OTHER LICENSING MATTERS

5. The principal work of the former Public Entertainment and Other Matters Licensing Sub-Committee was to consider applications from premises for the provision of public entertainment. Public entertainment licensing is now included in the Licensing Act 2003 and is the responsibility of a statutory Council committee, the Licensing  2003 Committee. There remain however a number of other licensing functions in separate legislation for which district councils are responsible. They are set out in full in the Government's Functions and Responsibilities Regulations, and include the following:-

Acupuncture, tattooing, ear piercing and electrolysis.
Pet shops, zoos, dog breeding and other animal welfare issues.
Betting, gaming and lotteries.
Food hawkers and game dealers.
House to house and street collections.
Scrap metal dealers.
Sex establishments.
Market and street trading.
Door supervisors.
Registration of food premises.

6. Suggested powers and duties for a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee are set out in Annex 2 to this report. The Sub-Committee will essentially be a body that deals with casework. It will not, for example, be responsible for setting licence fees. That responsibility is reserved to this Committee.

7. Last year, five members were appointed to the former Sub-Committee. The Committee may feel that three members would suffice this year since the Committee will no longer be dealing with public entertainment. The Sub-Committee must be politically balanced. If three members are appointed to serve on it, the political balance will need to be one Labour, one Liberal Democrat and one Green member. If the Committee decided that five members should serve on the Sub-Committee, then the political balance will need to be two Labour, two Liberal Democrat and one Green members. Officers can report orally if the Committee decides to appoint any other number of members to the Sub-Committee.

8. No dates have been fixed for the Sub-Committee. Its business cannot be predicted. It will meet as and when required.

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