

DRAFT

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee

Date: 20th May 2010

Item No: 6

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE – APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To establish Sub-Committees for the 2010/11 Council Year to deal with the casework flowing from the Committee's own responsibilities.

Report approved by:

Finance: Sarah Fogden

Legal: Daniel Smith

Policy Framework: Not applicable

Recommendation(s): The Committee is RECOMMENDED to:-

- (a) establish a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2010/11, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical;
- (b) establish a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2009/10, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical.

1. The responsibilities of this Committee are set out in Annex 1 to this report. Last year the Committee established two Sub-Committees, a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee and a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee. This report is recommending the re-establishment of both Sub-Committees.

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 2 to this report. 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 should, where possible and practical, be politically balanced. If three members are appointed to serve on it this year, the political balance will need to be x Labour and x Liberal Democrat members. 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:-

8th July 2010 – 5.00 pm
14th October 2010 – 5.00 pm
13th January 2011 – 5.00 pm
14th April 2011 – 5.00 pm

OTHER LICENSING MATTERS

5. The powers and duties of a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee are set out in Annex 3 to this report. The Sub-Committee is essentially a body that deals with casework.
6. Last year, four members were appointed to the Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee should, where possible and practical, be politically balanced. If four members are appointed to serve on it this year, the political balance will need to be x Labour, x Liberal Democrat and x Green members. If the Committee wishes to appoint a different number of members, I will report orally on the political balance required.
7. 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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Background papers: None

Version number: 2

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING COMMITTEE

1. Taxi, private hire and other vehicle licensing
 - Recommend and review policies on taxi and private hire and other vehicle licensing
 - Set and review licence fees
2. Other licensing and registration
 - Recommend and review policies on licensing and registration
 - Set and review licence fees
 - Agree a charity collection scheme
 - Agree and vary a street trading scheme

HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

1. To decide taxi and private hire and other vehicle, driver and operator licence applications where the applicant has a conviction and the relevant Service Head has concerns about the nature of the offence, or the applicant or the vehicle may not be suitable for some reason.
2. To withdraw and suspend licences for taxis, private hire and other vehicles and their drivers and operators.

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION SUB-COMMITTEE

1. To decide sex establishment licence applications when there are objections
2. To decide street trading applications that are for longer than three months.
3. To decide applications to renew street trading permissions when there has been a complaint about the trader, or the trader has broken the conditions of their street trading permission in the past year or where there is competition for a vacant approved site.