

To: General Purposes Licensing Committee

Date: 19th May 2011

Item No:

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 2011/12 Council Year to deal with the casework flowing from the Committee's own responsibilities.

Report approved by:

Finance:

Legal: Jeremy Thomas, Head of Law and Governance

Policy Framework: Not applicable

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

- (1) establish a Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Licensing Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2011 - 12, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical;
- (2) establish a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee for the Council Year 2011 - 12, to agree its powers and duties and to appoint members to it on the basis of political balance where possible and practical.

1. For the 2010 – 11 Council 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 1 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 2 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat members. If the Committee wishes to appoint a different number of members, I will report orally on the political balance requirement.

OTHER LICENSING MATTERS

5. The powers and duties of a Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee are set out in Annex 2 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 2 Labour, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 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.

Name and contact details of author:-

William Reed Democratic Services Manager Town Hall Oxford OX1 4YS Tel: 01865 252230 e-mail: wreed@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers: None

Version number: 1

HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

1. To deal with cases concerning applicants for or holders of taxi, private hire or other drivers or vehicle licences brought to the sub-committee by officers
2. To decide taxi and private hire and other vehicle, driver and operator licence applications when 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 other reason
3. To withdraw and suspend licences for taxis and 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.