

Time commenced : 6.00pm  
Time finished : 7.05pm

**LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
**18 February 2004**

Present: Councillor Skelton (in the Chair)  
Councillors Bolton, Brown, Dhamrait, J Hickson, Hird, F Hussain,  
Jackman, Jackson, Jones, MacDonald, Redfern, Rehman, and  
Samra

**38/03 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

**39/03 Minutes of Previous Meetings**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 December 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the addition of Councillor Dhamrait's apologies.

**40/03 Late Items to be Introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**41/03 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**42/03 Access to Albert Street and Victoria Street**

Mick Watts presented a report that advised the Committee on the views of local disabled people relating to the restricted access for Private Hire Vehicles to Albert Street and Victoria Street. In order to obtain views a report was presented to the Disabled People's Advisory Committee - DPAC. The concerns raised centred around the restrictions of Private Hire Vehicles to Victoria Street and Albert Street, as for some people it was a necessity to use Private Hire Vehicles, not a choice. It was noted that DPAC were pleased that through Connecting Derby, accessibility, in general, for disabled people had been improved.

The Committee was advised that the 1985 Transport Act set out legislation that allowed Hackney Carriages and other public service vehicles, access into restricted access areas, but not Private Hire Vehicles.

Councillor Hussain asked if a provision could be made, to add into by-laws, that pre-booked Private Hire Vehicles could access the restricted area. It was also suggested that Blue Badge holders would be allowed

to use Private Hire Vehicles.

It was noted that consideration had been given to exemptions that could be made for disabled people, all of which would be difficult to impose.

**Resolved**

- 1 To note the report**
- 2 To explore further possibilities of allowing access to Private Hire Vehicles to access the restricted area, for disabled people.**

#### **43/03 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees and Charges 2004/05**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services advising that the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fees and Charges 2004/05 were advertised in the Derby Evening Telegraph on 1 January 2004. No objections to the proposals were received during the 28-day objection period. The new fees and charges would become effective from 1 April 2004.

**Resolved to note the report.**

#### **44/03 Private Hire Vehicle Meter Tests**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate Services that detailed options for testing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.

The Committee was reminded that at the Licensing and Appeals Committee meeting on 13 November 2003, the meter test procedure was changed to testing, calibration and sealing being undertaken by meter agents, with a random sample of 10% of the fleet subsequently being checked by the Council. Following the change a number of Private Hire Vehicle proprietors had raised concerns about being treated differently to Hackney Carriage proprietors, as they were still undergoing 100% meter tests.

It was reported that the law requires Hackney Carriages to have a taximeter installed that would be calibrated in accordance with the fare table approved by the Council. However, Private Hire Vehicle proprietors/operators are under no obligation to install a meter. If a meter was installed the licensing authority would have to make sure that it was accurate. It was reported that the Council did not have the discretion to introduce random sampling.

It was noted that there would be a proposal later in the year, to carry out a national search for best practices on meter tests.

**Resolved to request the Director of Corporate Services to investigate options for meter testing of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles and report back to the Licensing and Appeals Committee.**

MINUTES END