

Time commenced : 6.15 pm  
Time finished : 8.55 pm

**TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**  
**19 DECEMBER 2007**

Present: Councillor Dhamrait (Chair)  
Councillors Baxter, Berry, Hird, Hussain, Jackson, Jennings, S Khan,  
Lowe, Rawson, Redfern and Skelton.

**28/07 Apologies**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Poulter.

**29/07 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were no late items.

**30/07 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**31/07 Confirmation of the minutes of the Taxi Licensing and  
Appeals meetings held on 17 October and  
7 November 2007**

The minutes of the meetings held on 17 October and 7 November 2007 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**32/07 Request for Approval of the Gainmanor "Scotcab" Fiat  
Scudo Taxi as a Hackney Carriage**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services following a request for approval of the Gainmanor "Scotcab" Fiat Scudo Taxi as a Hackney Carriage. Representatives from the Fiat dealership and Scotcab attended the meeting and a demonstrator vehicle was available for members to inspect.

Some members expressed concern over the amount of leg room available inside the cabin for wheelchair users. The representative from Fiat told the Committee that a seat could be moved back to provide further leg room if required. A suggestion was made to refer the request for approval to the Disabled People's Diversity Forum to advise the Committee on the suitability of the vehicle before approving it for use as a Hackney Carriage.

The following recommendation was put to the vote and carried. Councillors Rawson and Redfern asked for their vote against the recommendation to be recorded.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. Approve the Ganimanor “Scotcab” for use as a Hackney Carriage within the City of Derby, the approval applying only to the version of the vehicle equipped with a sliding rear seat thereby increasing the amount of leg room available for wheelchair users.**
- 2. Request the Interim Director of Environmental Services to amend the Council’s specification for Hackney Carriages to include the Gainmanor “Scotcab”.**

**33/07      Review of Policy on Use of Mobile Phones by  
Licensed Drivers**

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services which set out the decision made by Taxi Licensing Sub Committee in June 2005 which included the use of ‘hands free’ mobile phones using Bluetooth technology.

**Resolved to amend the existing policy on the use of mobile phones by licensed drivers in the following way. The resolution of June 2005 would read:**

**“to approve the following enforcement approach if a driver is reported as having used a hand held mobile phone whilst driving a Hackney Carriage or a Private Hire Vehicle:**

- If a complaint is received against the driver the matter will be referred to the Taxi Licensing Sub Committee, with a view to action being taken against their licence.”**

**34/07      Taxi Licensing Enforcement Statistics for Licensing  
and Enforcement Activities – October 3 2007**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services which included the quarterly performance and workload data relating to taxi licensing activities. The statistics for July to September 2007 were attached at Appendix 2.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. Note the report.**
- 2. Ask the Chair of the Committee to write to the licensed taxi companies and operators informing them of any patterns emerging in the defects found as a result of the inspections carried out.**

**35/07      Review of Maximum Age Limits for Licensed Drivers**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services setting out details of a request received to amend the current licensing conditions in relation to the maximum age limits of drivers.

**Resolved to amend the current licensing conditions, in principle, by removing the bar against licensing drivers over the age of 70, subject to appropriate conditions being drafted and brought to the next meeting of the Committee for ratification.**

### **36/07      Removal of 'Contract Hire' Exemption – The Road Safety Act 2006 (England and Wales) Order 2007 – Update Report**

The Committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services setting out details of the so called 'Contract Exemption' which is due to be repeated with effect from January 2008. The changes in legislation would affect a range of vehicles not currently subject to licensing including limousines, chauffeur driven cars, airport transfers and volunteer transport schemes.

**Resolved to implement the provisions of the 2007 Order within the city of Derby from the date it comes into effect, subject to a moratorium against enforcing the new provisions against volunteer transport schemes providers before 1 June 2008 pending clarification from Licensing Officers, following further consultation with relevant stakeholders, of the extent to which the new provisions will be applicable to volunteer transport schemes providers.**

### **37/07      Calculating Private Hire Operators Licence Fees**

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services, setting out options for calculating operators licence fees.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. Choose the flat rate plus per vehicle calculations method as set out in Example 2 in Appendix 3 of the report to calculate private hire vehicle operator licence fees.**
- 2. Ask the Interim Director of Environmental Services to write to representatives of the taxi trade, consulting them on this proposal and to report back to the next meeting of this committee with the consultation results.**

### **38/07      Taxi Licensing Fees and Charges 2008/09**

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services setting out details of the taxi licensing fees and charges 2008/09. The proposed license fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licenses and other charges for 2008/09 were set out at Appendix 4 of the report.

**Resolved to:**

- 1. Approve, subject to the consideration of the objections/representations, the proposed licence fees and charges for driver, vehicle and operator licences and other charges for 2008/09.**

- 2. Request the Interim Director of Environmental Services to advertise the proposed variation of fees.**
- 3. Authorise the Interim Director of Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chair of Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee, to consider any objections received within the objection period and take appropriate action if required.**
- 4. To approve the new licence fees to become effective from 1 April 2008 if no objections are received during the objection period.**

**39/07      Review of Use of Bus Lanes by Licensing Hackney Carriages**

The committee considered a report of the Interim Director of Environmental Services, setting out a request made at a Hackney Carriage trade representatives meeting to be allowed to use all bus lanes within the Council's area.

**Resolved to ask the Director of Regeneration and Community to consider this matter and provide a report to the next meeting of the committee.**

MINUTES END