

Time commenced – 6.10pm
Time finished – 6.37pm

**TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY 9 JULY 2008**

Present: Councillor Redfern (in the Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Hussain, Leeming, Lowe, Rawson, Richards,
Skelton, Williams and Winter

01/08 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Berry, Hird and Poulter.

02/08 Late items introduced by the Chair

In accordance with Section 100(B) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chair agreed to admit the following late item on the grounds that it could not wait until the next meeting.

- Request for the Mercedes-Benz M8 to be Approved as a Hackney Carriage.

03/08 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

04/08 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 April 2008 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**05/08 Request for the Mercedes-Benz M8 to be
Approved as a Hackney Carriage**

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on a request for the Mercedes-Benz M8 to be approved as a Hackney Carriage. The M8 was produced by Mercedes-Benz in conjunction with Cab Direct and was manufactured as a purpose-built hackney carriage. The M8 was slightly longer

and slightly wider than the Vito and would be capable of seating 6 passengers.

The M8 SE was inspected by the Group Leader of the Taxi Licensing Team and the Councils Access Officer at Celtic House on 8 July 2008.

The vehicle meets the Council's current hackney carriage vehicle specification, including all disabled access issues and uniquely for a hackney carriage, has suitable fittings to allow a wheelchair to travel safely facing forward, if the passenger wishes. There was also an electric retractable step on either side of the vehicle to aid access to and egress from the vehicle, together with colour contrasting grab rails.

Resolved to approve the Mercedes-Benz M8 as a hackney carriage.

06/08 The Proposed Licensing of Tuk-Tuks and Rickshaws in Derby

The Committee considered a report from Director of Environmental Services on the proposed licensing of Tuk-Tuks and Rickshaws in Derby. At the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008, it was agreed that a Cross Party Working Group would examine the implications of licensing Tuk-Tuks and Rickshaws for use in Derby and report back to the Committee with their recommendations. The Cross Party Working Group met on 11 June 2008 to consider this issue.

The Working Group agreed to recommend that Tuk-Tuks and Rickshaws should be licensed, subject to compliance with the Council's standard conditions already in place for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles and a set of vehicle specifications to be produced that have been influenced largely on the detail of the advice received from Council.

Members raised concerns that the vehicles would not meet the Disability Equality Duty. It was reported that Tuk-tuks and Rickshaws would be available for hire to all and that the construction and use of the vehicles would have to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and/or the Disability Equality Duty. It was noted that the Councils Access Officer had been consulted on the issue.

It was suggested, and agreed, that section 8b of the Vehicle Specification was too prescriptive and that it should be amended by the inclusion of the words highlighted at b) below to read as follows:

- b) a suitable first aid kit containing **at least** the following items:
 - (i) six individually wrapped adhesive dressings;

- (ii) one medium sized un-medicated dressing approximately 100 mm by 80 mm (e.g. standard dressing No 8 or No 13 BPC);
- (iii) one triangular bandage (sterile);
- (iv) six safety pins, and
- (v) one pair of disposable gloves.

Resolved:

1. To note the report;
2. To request Council to licence Tuk-Tuks and Rickshaws subject to each complying with the applicable Council Standard Conditions for Hackney Carriages and / or Private Hire Vehicles and the approval of a set of vehicle specifications for such vehicles.

07/08 Request for Relaxation of 'Contract Hire' Exemption Regime

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on a Request for Relaxation of 'Contract Hire' Exemption Regime. When this issue was initially considered at the Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008, members agreed for officers to meet with trade representatives to seek their views and report views back to a Cross Party Working Group who would then make recommendations to Committee.

Resolved

1. To note the report;
2. To request Council to approve the amendments to the Council's Private Hire Driver Conditions, Private Hire Vehicle Conditions, Private Hire Operator Conditions and Specification for Private Hire Vehicles.

08/08 Proposed Increase in Hackney Carriage Tariff

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services on the proposed increase in Hackney Carriage Tariffs. This issue was

considered at the last Taxi Licensing and Appeals Committee on 23 April 2008. Members were informed that officers had recently received requests from the Hackney Carriage Trade Representatives to consider an increase in the Hackney Carriage Tariffs, on the basis that it had been over two years since the last tariff increase had taken place and the costs of operating Hackney Carriages continued to rise.

In the past, it had been the practice for the trade to agree a revised tariff to be presented to Committee for consideration by members. A hackney trade meeting was held on 3 July 2008. After long deliberation, the representatives acting on behalf of Derby Area Taxi Operator's Association (DATOA), Derby Hackney Union (DHU) and Derby Cabs (DC) agreed one mutually acceptable option for the increase in hackney carriage tariff. The proposed tariff included an increase to the 'Tariff 1' and 'Tariff 2' initial hiring charge and subsequent mile charge. It proposed an increase to the vehicle cleaning charge to £40. The times for application of the 'Tariff 1' or 'Tariff 2' would remain the same. Tariff 1 being 05:00 hrs to midnight and Tariff 2 being midnight to 05:00 hrs.

Resolved

- 1. To agree the increase in the Hackney Carriage tariff;**
- 2. To request the Director of Environmental Services to advertise the variation of the hackney carriage tariff;**
- 3. To approve the Chair, in consultation with the Assistant Director – Environmental Health & Trading Standards, to consider any objections received.**

MINUTES END