

Time commenced - 6.00 pm
Time finished - 8.15 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
13 FEBRUARY 2008

Present: Councillor Dhamrait (Chair)

Councillors Baxter, Berry, Hird, Hussain, Jennings, S Khan, Lowe,
Poulter, Rawson, Redfern and Skelton

40/07 Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Jackson.

41/07 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

42/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

43/07 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 December 2007 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the following amendment:

32/07 - To amend the second paragraph to read '...leg room if required. A counter proposal was made by Councillors Redfern and Rawson to refer the request for approval to the Disabled People's Diversity Forum...'

32/07 – To amend the first sentence of the third paragraph to read 'The proposal was put to the vote and not carried.'

**44/07 Request for Approval of the TW Automotive
 'TW200' Series Taxi as a Hackney Carriage**

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services detailing a request for approval of the TW Automotive 'TW200' series taxi as a hackney carriage.

A vehicle was available during the meeting for members to view. Members agreed that in future all requests for approval of a new vehicle to be licensed as a

hackney carriage should be referred to the Council's Access Officer and that any comments be detailed in the report to the Committee.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the TW Automotive 'TW200' Series for use as a Hackney Carriage within the City of Derby.**
- 2. To request the Interim Director of Environmental Services to amend the Council's specification for Hackney Carriages to include the TW Automotive 'TW200' Series.**
- 3. To delegate powers to the Assistant Director Environmental Health and Trading Standards to approve vehicles with an identical bodysell to previously licensed hackney carriages.**
- 4. To refer all requests for new vehicles for use as a hackney carriage to the Council's Access Officer for comment and that any comments are included in the report to the Committee.**

45/07 Removal of Maximum Age Limit for Licensed Drivers

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services proposing amendments to current licensing conditions in relation to the maximum age limits of drivers.

Members agreed to remove '...at the doctor's practice...' from 2 a) and to add '...following receipt of a complaint.' at the end of 2 d), of the proposed Driver's Licensing Conditions.

Resolved to approve the proposed amendments to current licensing conditions in relation to the maximum age limits of drivers' with the following additional amendments made at the meeting:

- a. to remove '...at the doctor's practice...' from 2 a) and**
- b. to add '...following receipt of a complaint.' at the end of 2 d), of the proposed Driver's Licensing Conditions.**

46/07 Consultation on the Method to Calculate Private Hire Operators Licence Fees

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services detailing the responses received from the consultation exercise about calculating operators licence fees.

A letter had been sent to all the private hire operators setting out the committee's decision, from its meeting on 19 December 2007, and requesting their views. In total, 61 letters were sent out and 20 responses were received by the deadline. A summary of these responses were set out in appendix 3 of the report.

Resolved to retain the current £27 charge per vehicle for 2008/9 and to request a report in September/October 2008 to consider revising the charges for 2009/10.

47/07 Licensing of Stretched Limousines and Other Contract Hire Vehicles as Private Hire Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services requesting consideration to the licensing of stretched limousines and other contract hire vehicles as private hire vehicles. Proposed Private Hire Vehicle Licence (Limousine) Conditions were attached at appendix 3 and a proposed specification for Private Hire Limousines was also attached at appendix 4 of the report.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the contents of the report concerning the licensing of stretched limousines as private hire vehicles.**
- 2. To approve the adoption of the Private Hire Licensing Conditions (Limousines) to allow the licensing of limousines as private hire vehicles, subject to the further amendment approved at resolution 7 (below).**
- 3. To confirm, for the avoidance of doubt, that subject to resolution 2 all other contract hire vehicles affected by the removal of “the contract exemption” must comply with the Council’s Private Hire Vehicle specification.**
- 4. To approve the proposals set out in Paragraph 2.6 of the report for dealing with ‘novelty vehicles’.**
- 5. To agree that Limousine drivers will not be subject to a Knowledge Test.**
- 6. To review the licensing of stretched limousines and other contract hire vehicles as private hire vehicles in 12 months.**
- 7. To approve the inclusion with in the Private Hire Licensing Conditions (Limousines) of a provision that precludes passengers**

from travelling in the front seats of stretch limousines.

Councillor Baxter, Berry and S Khan asked for there vote against resolution 7 above be recorded.

48/07 Taxi Licensing Section – statistics for Licensing and Enforcement Activities – Quarter 4, 2007

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services detailing performance and workload data for quarter 4 2007, relating to taxi licensing activities.

Resolved to note the report.

49/07 Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider a resolution to exclude the press and public during consideration of the following items:

“that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.”

50/07 Approval of New Specified Testing Stations

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services summarising details of applications for inclusion on the Council’s Select List of Specified Testing Stations.

Resolved to approve the applications detailed in the report for inclusion on the Council’s Select List of Specified Testing Stations.

MINUTES END