

ITEM 4b

Time commenced : 6.00 pm
Time finished : 7.00 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 20 SEPTEMBER 2007

Present: Councillor Dhamrait (Chair)
Councillors Baxter, Berry, Hird, Hussain, S Khan, Lowe, Poulter and Skelton

09/07 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jackson, Rawson and Redfern.

10/07 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items.

11/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12/07 The Use of Rickshaws in Derby City Centre

The Committee considered a report from the Interim Director of Environmental Services regarding a request for the Council to approve the use of rickshaws within the city centre. The proposal was for a number of rickshaws to carry passengers around the city centre (within the inner ring road) free of charge; the costs would be offset from revenue derived by sponsorship/advertising on the vehicle. Evening journeys and some longer routes, such as Pride Park, Ashbourne Road or the railway station would be charged for.

John Tomlinson, Assistant Director – Environmental Services, advised the Committee that the Council had sought legal advice on whether rickshaws should be licensed because of the lack of legislative clarity. The Barristers view was that rickshaws should be licensed as hackney carriages under taxi licensing legislation; this confirmed the view of the Council's Legal Services department. The Committee agreed that if rickshaws were approved for operation in the City they would have to be licensed as hackney carriages.

The Committee considered appendix 2 of the report which contained results of consultation with other local authorities regarding the licensing of rickshaws. The Committee asked for further information from authorities that operated rickshaws on how much they charged and how they operated. The Committee also wanted to know if any authorities had refused to allow rickshaws to operate and if so for what reasons.

The Committee also requested information from the rickshaw operators on the sustainability of the service and asked that an operator be invited to bring a vehicle to the next meeting of the Committee and answer questions raised by the Committee at that meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To agree that rickshaws and their drivers/riders should be licensed as hackney carriages if approved for use in Derby.**
- 2. To receive information regarding the operation of rickshaws, fares and reasons for refusing the operation of rickshaws, from the authorities detailed in appendix 2 of the report.**
- 3. To invite a rickshaw operator with a rickshaw, to the next meeting of the Committee to answer questions raised by the Committee.**

MINUTES END