

Time commenced : 6.05 pm
Time adjourned : 6.10 pm
Time recommenced : 6.20 pm
Time finished : 7.30 pm

TAXI LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE 18 OCTOBER 2006

Present: Councillor Redfern (Chair)

Councillors Berry, Baxter, Dhamrait, Hird, Jackson, Khan, Lowe, Poulter,
Richards and Skelton

07/06 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bolton, Hickson and Hussain.

08/06 Late items introduced by the Chair

There were no late items

09/06 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Khan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute numbers 11/06 - 17/06 as he holds a taxi licence.

10/06 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 April 2006 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the following amendments:

01/06 - To include Councillor Berry's apologies.

04/06 – To amend Councillor Khan's apologies to read 'Councillor Khan declared a personal and prejudicial interest in minute numbers 05/06 and 06/06 as he holds a taxi licence.'

11/06 Narrowband Wireless Broadcast TV Screens in Hackney Carriages ('Cabtivate')

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services regarding a request from Cabtivate Media Ltd to install flat screen wireless TV's in taxi's. The screens and equipment would be located within the driver compartment behind the driver's head. The TV screens would be viewed by passengers through the plastic bulkhead and play moving images for advertising. They would also play 'content' which would consist of weather, news reports, pop videos and local and public information. Systems could also play digital TV channels such as 'Entertainment Today'.

A representative from Cabtivate attended the meeting to answer any questions or queries from the Committee.

Resolved

- 1. To approve in principle the broadcasting of narrowband wireless transmissions to public display screens located in licensed hackney carriages in Derby.**
- 2. To ask the Director of Environmental Services to write to other English Authorities who currently use Cabtivate asking for feedback on their experience with Cabtivate and the system.**
- 3. To request that Cabtivate supply the Committee with copies of the safety investigation documents referred to in the report.**

12/06 Request for Approval of a New Hackney Carriage (Jubilee Eurocab SX)

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services about a request from Jubilee Automotive Group, the Birmingham based taxi retailer, for the Council to approve one of their vehicles, the Eurocab SX, for use as a licensed Hackney Carriage in the Derby city area.

Members of the Committee examined one of these vehicles during an adjournment of the meeting.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the Jubilee Eurocab SX for use as a hackney Carriage within the City of Derby, subject to the vehicle meeting all of the Council's specifications for hackney carriages (with the exception of the turning circle requirement) and the blanking off of the bulkhead aperture for the sliding door hinge behind the driver's head.**
- 2. To request the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to amend the Council's specification for hackney Carriages to include the Eurocab SX.**

13/06 Appeal against Refusal to Renew Private Hire Drivers Licence

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services that detailed the outcome of an appeal following the refusal to renew a Private Hire driver licence, for Mr Zahid Rashid, by the Council's Taxi Licensing Sub Committee.

Resolved to note the outcome of Rashid's appeal against the refusal to renew his private hire Driver's Licence.

14/06 Format of Company Door Signs on Private Hire Vehicles

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services detailing a proposed format for company door signs on private hire vehicles licensed by the Council.

It was reported that at recent private hire trade meetings, licensed operators proposed that company door signs should be standardised and subject to criteria regarding the minimum size of the sign and the legibility of the text.

Members agreed that drivers that had individual contracts or worked for more than one operator should display the relevant sign on their car. John Tomlinson – Environmental Health Manager, advised that this was the intention.

Members also asked the Taxi Licensing section to investigate the possibility of putting the number on the plate inside the car to make it easier for passengers to identify the driver.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the proposed format for company signs on private hire vehicles licensed by the Council.**
- 2. To request the Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services to amend the Council's specifications, conditions and Supplementary Testing manual, where necessary, to account for the proposed format.**

15/06 Taxi Licensing Section – Additional Staffing Requirements

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services regarding the appointment of a temporary, part-time Licensing Officer.

Resolved

- 1. To approve the appointment of a temporary, part-time Licensing Officer until 31 March 2008.**
- 2. To request the Director of Environmental Services to report back to this Committee in 12 months time on the workload and staffing situation within the taxi licensing section.**

16/06 Taxi Licensing Section – Statistics for Licensing and Enforcement Activities

The Committee considered a report from the Director of Environmental Services detailing quarterly statistics on performance and workload relating to taxi licensing activities for July to September 2006.

Resolved to note the report.

17/06 Training Update

The Committee were advised that the following members required Taxi Licensing training:

Councillors Dhamrait, Hickson, Hussain and Lowe.

MINUTES END