

LICENSING (GENERAL) SUB - COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD AUGUST 2006

Present:

Councillor Cunio (Chair)
Councillor Drake (Vice Chair)
Councillors Mrs Blatchford, Darke, Smith (excluding item 21) and White

STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

15. MINUTES INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing (General) Sub Committee Meeting held on 31st May, 2006, be approved as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes.)

16. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Rules contained within the Constitution, the press and public be excluded from the meeting at a predetermined point in the hearing in respect of any consideration of the following matters and specifically in respect of any consideration of Minute 17 on grounds that are based on Category 4 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules because doing so would constitute a breach of the Data Protection Act 1998 as well as a breach of a Common Law duty of confidentiality.

17. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

The Sub-Committee considered the confidential report of the Solicitor to the Council detailing an application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence. (Copy of report circulated with agenda and appended to signed minutes).

The applicant and their representative were in attendance and with the consent of the Chair, addressed the meeting.

The Sub-Committee considered the decision in confidential session in accordance with Category 4 of Paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules.

RESOLVED that the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted.

REASON FOR DECISION

Having regard to the Home Office Guidelines the Sub-Committee was satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person but that he should be warned that any further cautions would be viewed seriously.

18. PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Solicitor to the Council detailing proposals made by the Chair of the Southampton Taxi Consultative Council on behalf of the Southampton taxi trade consultative groups to vary the table of fares. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED

- (i) that the proposed variation of fares as set out in the report be approved in principle;
- (ii) that the Solicitor to the Council be requested to advertise the proposed variations; and
- (iii) that any objections received by the Licensing Department during the consultation period be reported to the meeting scheduled for 21st September, 2006.

19. LICENSING OF SPECIALISED VEHICLES

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Solicitor to the Council detailing proposed amendments to the conditions for Private Hire Vehicles to allow the inclusion of certain specialised vehicles such as stretched limousines, classic cars and other unusual vehicles currently being used by businesses for hire and reward. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED

- (i) that authority be delegated to the Solicitor to the Council to licence any specialised vehicle meeting the testing requirements applying to Private Hire vehicles with the exception of the age requirement that should be sufficiently flexible to be inclusive rather than exclusive; and

- (ii) that any application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence not meeting these requirements be considered by the Licensing (General) Sub-Committee.

20. LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS – SPECIALISED VEHICLES

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Solicitor to the Council detailing proposals to create a second tier of Private Hire Driver Licence to be granted to drivers of specialised vehicles without the need for a topography test. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED

- (i) that a second tier of Private Hire Driver Licence be approved limiting the driver to certain specialised vehicles only; and
- (ii) that the licence and badge be in a format easily identifiable to the Police, Enforcement Officers, Vehicle Operators and other Private Hire drivers.

21. DRIVING ASSESSMENT FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Solicitor to the Council detailing proposals to introduce a driving assessment as a condition of granting a licence, initially for new drivers but with sufficient flexibility to extend the system to include frequent offenders and those who are disqualified from driving under the totting up procedure. (Copy of the report circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes.)

RESOLVED that the report be supported in principle, subject to consultation with the taxi trade and a detailed report being made to the Sub-Committee at a future meeting