

Minutes

Licensing Committee

18th July 2012



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
J S Allen	Apologies	C Gibson	Yes
M J Banthorpe (Chairman)	Yes	S A Howell	Yes
J Baugh	Yes	H D Johnson	Yes
T G Cunningham	Yes	E R Lynch	Yes
J G J Elliott	Yes	J A Pell	Yes
J H G Finbow	Yes	L S Walters	Yes
M J Fincken	Apologies	S A Wilson	Apologies
M E Galione	Yes	B Wright	Yes

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman stated that the meeting was not being webcast as indicated in the Agenda, but that it was being audio recorded.

5 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

6 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 25th June 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

7 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: In view of the number of people attending the meeting for the consideration of Agenda Item 5 – Study of Service Provided by Hackney Carriage Vehicles in the Braintree District, the Chairman announced that he would invite people to speak whilst the item was being considered. Mr B Stubbs, Vice-Chairman of the Taxi Association, Mr B Archer and Mr A Holden spoke on the item.

There were no questions asked or statements made on any other matters.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions. An audio recording of the meeting is available from Member Services.

8 **STUDY OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES IN THE BRAINTREE DISTRICT**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on the service provided by Hackney Carriage vehicles in the Braintree District.

It was reported that the number of licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles in the Braintree District was currently restricted to 84 and, in order to assess the validity of this restriction and to ascertain whether there were sufficient licensed vehicles, the Council commissioned a study every three years.

Halcrow Group Limited had been selected to carry out the study and a copy of their comprehensive report was attached to the Agenda. Based on the findings of the study, the report concluded that there was no evidence of significant unmet demand for Hackney Carriage vehicles in the Braintree District. A representative of Halcrow Group Limited attended the meeting and presented the findings of the study.

Following the presentations on this item, the Chairman invited members of the public who were representing the taxi trade to put forward their views on the matter. The representatives agreed that there was no unmet demand and they indicated that in the current economic climate work was limited. They requested the Committee not to support deregulation.

In considering this item, Members of the Committee had regard to the Department for Transport's Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance; the Department for Transport's letter of 16th June 2004 setting out a range of matters which Councils should consider when assessing vehicle quantity control; and the Law Commission's Consultation Paper No 203: Reforming the Law of Taxi and Private Hire Services. This Consultation Paper sought to modernise and simplify the law relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles, including the possible removal of vehicle quantity restrictions.

DECISION: That the conclusions of the report prepared by Halcrow Group Limited be accepted and that no additional Hackney Carriage vehicle licences be issued.

9 **BRAINTREE AND DISTRICT TAXI ASSOCIATION LIAISON PANEL - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

DECISION: That Councillors J S Allen, M J Banthorpe, J Baugh, T G Cunningham, J H G Finbow, M E Galione, C Gibson, S A Howell, H D Johnson, E R Lynch, J A Pell, and B Wright be appointed to the Braintree and District Taxi Association Liaison Panel for the 2012/13 Civic Year.

10 **DRIVERS' PANEL - APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS**

DECISION: That all Members of the Licensing Committee be appointed to the Drivers' Panel for the 2012/13 Civic Year.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.

M J BANTHORPE

(Chairman)