

Minutes

Licensing Committee

30th November 2011



Present:

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

8 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

9 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 28th September 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 **QUESTION TIME**

INFORMATION: There were no questions asked or statements made.

11 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE – DRAFT LICENSING POLICY**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on a proposed draft licensing policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire. The draft Policy incorporated all Council policies relevant to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire, new legislation and, where appropriate and relevant to the District, good practice endorsed by the latest Department of Transport Guidance issued in 2010.

The most significant proposals related to:-

1. The duration of Hackney Carriage, Private Hire and dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire driver's licences.
2. Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicle age.
3. Hackney Carriage vehicle colour.
4. Applicants from outside the United Kingdom.
5. The relevance of convictions and cautions.
6. Executive vehicles and limousines (Private Hire).
7. The introduction of Group 2 standards of medical fitness.

In discussing the draft policy, Members of the Committee proposed that consideration should be given to a designated colour for Hackney Carriage vehicles being introduced at an earlier date, and to a driver's ability to communicate with passengers being investigated.

DECISION: That the draft Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire be approved for the purpose of consultation.

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

DECISION: That Councillors M J Banthorpe, J Baugh, J H G Finbow, M E Galione, S A Howell, H D Johnson, J A Pell, A F Shelton and B Wright be appointed to the Braintree and District Taxi Association Liaison Panel for the 2011/12 Civic Year.

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

DECISION: That all Members of the Licensing Committee be appointed to the Drivers' Panel.

At the close of the meeting, the Chairman referred to negative comments in the local Press about the knowledge test for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle drivers. The Chairman stated that this matter had been discussed at a recent meeting of Braintree and District Taxi Association Liaison Panel when it had been unanimously agreed that the test should continue in its present form, and representatives of the 'taxi' trade had confirmed that the test was acceptable.

At the close of the meeting, the Chairman wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.

M J BANTHORPE

(Chairman)