

# Minutes

## Licensing Committee

20th July 2016



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
Mrs J Allen	Apologies	H Johnson	Yes
M Banthorpe (Chairman)	Yes	Mrs J Money	Yes
J Baugh	Yes	Mrs J Pell	Yes
S Canning	Apologies	R van Dulken	Apologies
J Elliott	Apologies	Mrs L Walters	Yes
J Goodman	Apologies	Mrs S Wilson	Yes
A Hensman	Yes		

### 6 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**INFORMATION:** The following interest was declared:-

Councillor A Hensman declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 5 – ‘Study of Service Provided by Hackney Carriage Vehicles in the Braintree District’ as he was the holder of a dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle driver’s licence issued by Braintree District Council.

### 7 **MINUTES**

**DECISION:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 11th May 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 8 **QUESTION TIME**

**INFORMATION:** There were no questions asked or statements made during Question Time.

Principally, these Minutes record decisions taken only and, where appropriate, the reasons for the decisions.

9      **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. In accordance with Department for Transport Guidance issued in 2010 and Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985, the Council was required to undertake a survey at regular intervals in order to assess the validity of this restriction and to ascertain whether there were sufficient licensed vehicles. The Council had commissioned a study of demand which had been completed recently.

Vector Transport Consultancy had been selected to carry out the study and a copy of their comprehensive report had been circulated to the Members of the Committee. 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. Mr Ian Macdonald, representing Vector Transport Consultancy attended the meeting and presented the findings of the study.

In considering this Item, Members of the Committee had regard to the Office of Fair Trading Review 2003; the Law Commission Review No. 347 Taxi and Private Hire Services May 2014; Department for Transport Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing: Best Practice Guidance March 2010; the Department for Transport's letter of 16th June 2004 requesting Councils which restrict taxi licences to review quantity control policies; and Braintree District Council's Hackney Carriage Allocation Policy.

**DECISION:** That the conclusions of the report prepared by Vector Transport Consultancy be accepted and that no additional Hackney Carriage vehicle licences be issued.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To meet the Council's obligations in accordance with Section 16 of the Transport Act 1985 on the control of the number of Hackney Carriages within the Braintree District.

10      **LICENSING COMMITTEE UPDATE**

**INFORMATION:** Members of the Committee received an update on applications determined by the Drivers' Panel and the Licensing Sub-Committee since the Committee's last meeting.

It was reported that no applications had been presented to either the Drivers' Panel, or to the Licensing Sub-Committee.

Members were advised that letters had been sent to all secondary schools in the District advising them of the licensing requirements for vehicles used as transport for school proms. The dates and location of all school proms being held within the District had been obtained, which would enable the Council to monitor them for compliance.

**DECISION:** That the Licensing Committee Update be noted.

**REASON FOR DECISION:** To update Councillors on applications determined during the last Committee cycle.

The meeting closed at 8.12pm.

Councillor M Banthorpe  
(Chairman)