

# **BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE (NON LICENSING ACT 2003)**

**3.00PM – 5 JANUARY 2006**

### **COMMITTEE ROOM 3 BRIGHTON TOWN HALL**

#### **MINUTES**

Present: Councillor Lepper (Chair); Councillors Bennett, Mrs Cobb, Hyde (Deputy Chair), Meegan, Older, Pennington (Deputy Chair), Paskins, Pidgeon, Mrs Simson, G Theobald and Tonks.

Apologies: Councillor Turner.

#### **PART ONE**

#### **ACTION**

#### **8. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS**

##### **8A Declarations of Substitutes**

8.1 Councillor Paskins attended as a substitute for Councillor Williams.

##### **8B Declarations of Interest**

8.2 There were none.

##### **8C Exclusion of Press and Public**

8.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100A(3) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972.

8.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any items.

#### **9. MINUTES**

9.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 1

September 2005 be approved and signed by the Chair.

## **10. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

10.1 **RESOLVED** – There were none.

## **11. HACKNEY CARRIAGE UNMET DEMAND SURVEY 2006**

11.1 The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director Public Safety informing them that a Hackney Carriage Unmet Demand Survey would be carried out in 2006 (for copy see minute book).

11.2 Members asked for the following matters to be considered in the survey.

- Low emission hackney carriages to help air quality.
- An assurance that there are sufficient numbers of hackney carriages during the evening and night.
- The use of more London style cabs, which are safer for drivers.

11.3 The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing reported that local air quality will be considered by the Environment Committee, as a report on an Air Quality Action Plan was to be considered in due course. The air quality action plan will be integrated into the local transport plan. Meanwhile, late night taxis were being encouraged by an increased tariff at night. The new survey would be investigating late night availability. The Police and the taxi trade continue to work together to protect drivers and promote community safety within the taxi forum.

11.4 Members were informed that saloon cars were very popular with the trade. Permission had been granted for screens and CCTV in cabs.

11.5 **RESOLVED** - That the restricted numbers policy for hackney carriage vehicles be supported.

## **12. LETTER AND PETITION REGARDING ADUR VEHICLES BEING ALLOWED TO TAKE WORK FROM THE LICENSED BRIGHTON & HOVE TRADE**

12.1 The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Public Safety which requested that Members consider an attached letter and petition signed by 60 licensed taxi and private hire drivers, regarding Adur licensed vehicles being allowed to take work from the licensed Brighton and Hove trade (for copy see minute book).

12.2 The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing reported that individual drivers and other operators within the city had made complaints that a Brighton & Hove licensed operator was allegedly, occasionally using Adur vehicles and drivers which is an apparent offence. The Hackney Carriage office was investigating this complaint. The current position was that a simple caution had been offered to the alleged offender. If a simple caution is rejected, a licensing authority would normally proceed to instituting formal court proceedings.

12.3 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the attached letter and petition be noted.

(2) That the officers' action in offering a caution to the offending operator be endorsed.

### **13. "FAIR FARE" ARRANGEMENTS**

13.1 The Head of Environmental Health and Licensing reported that "Fair Fare" arrangements were supported by the Taxi Forum, the main unions and operators.

### **14. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL**

14.1 There were none.

The meeting concluded at 3.40 p.m.

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2006