

**Minutes of the Licensing Committee
of the Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Tuesday 9 February 2010 at 5.30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor A Hope (Chairman)	(A)	Councillor J N Anderdon (Vice-Chairman)	(P)
Councillor Mrs D Baverstock	(P)	Councillor P Lashbrook	(P)
Councillor C S Borg-Neal	(-)	Councillor Mrs J Lovell	(P)
Councillor P R Bundy	(P)	Councillor M R McGarry	(P)
Councillor Mrs E Charnley	(P)	Councillor Mrs P Mutton	(P)
Councillor A G Dowden	(A)	Councillor Mrs A L Tupper	(P)
Councillor Mrs A F Dyde	(P)	Councillor Mrs J Whiteley	(P)
Councillor Mrs M Kerley	(P)		

Also in attendance:

Councillor N Whiteley
Mr Pike, Test Valley Taxi Association

347

Public Participation

Resolved:

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Public Participation, the following speakers spoke on the item indicated:

Item No	Agenda Item	Name of Speaker
7	Vehicle Licence Condition – Spare Wheel	Mr Peter Thompson

348

Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2009 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

349

Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 27 November 2009 be received.

350

Vehicle Licence Condition – Spare Wheel

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Administration regarding the condition requiring all hackney carriage and private hire vehicles to carry a full sized spare wheel.

The Licensing Manager explained that the conditions are reviewed periodically and revised where appropriate. A number of changes were made in February 2008 including a change to the condition regarding spare wheels. The condition currently states that *“All vehicles must ... carry a spare wheel to the same specification as the road wheels. Space-saver tyres, tyre sealants and other puncture safety features are not permitted”*.

This condition was introduced as a result of concerns over vehicle (and thus driver and passenger) safety and in particular about inappropriate use of space-saver wheels. Officers believe that the condition is necessary and proportionate but a number of complaints have been received about the condition stating that it fails to take account of the fact that many modern cars now come equipped with only a space-saver wheel or in some cases just a tyre sealant device. Mr Thompson the public speaker was of this view.

The Committee noted that the Test Valley Taxi Association supported retention of the existing condition and that the Department for Transport’s approach supported the use of a full sized spare wheel on safety grounds.

The Committee considered that the safety of the public was paramount and concluded that the proposal should be approved.

Resolved:

That the current licence condition for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles requiring the carrying of a full size spare wheel be retained.

351

Updated Scheme of Delegations to the Head of Housing, Health & Communities

The Committee considered a report of the Housing, Health & Communities Portfolio Holder regarding the amended Scheme of Delegations to the Head of Housing, Health & Communities following the recent restructure to the Service.

The Council’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers comprises part of the Constitution. It is reported to annual Council, the Cabinet and Committees, for approval and sets out the post holders authorised to enter land and carry out any act included in specified legislation.

These Delegations need to be updated when there is a significant change of the structure in order that officers continue to be authorised to undertake their duties and to ensure that statutory notices are signed by the appropriate competent person.

Resolved:

That the updated Scheme of Delegations to the Head of Housing, Health & Communities be approved.

352

Licensing Committee Training

The Chairman reminded the Committee that there was a training session being held on Wednesday 10 February at 9.30 am in the Guildhall, Andover.

(Meeting terminated at 6.12 pm)