

**Minutes of the Licensing Committee
of the Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Tuesday 11 October 2011 at 5.30 p.m.

Attendance:

Councillor A Hope (Chairman)	(P)	Councillor J N Anderdon (Vice-Chairman)	(P)
Councillor I Andersen	(P)	Councillor A Johnston	(P)
Councillor A Beesley	(-)	Councillor P Lashbrook	(A)
Councillor A Brook	(P)	Councillor N Long	(P)
Councillor J Budzynski	(P)	Councillor I Richards	(P)
Councillor M Cooper	(P)	Councillor A L Tupper	(A)
Councillor B Few Brown	(P)	Councillor J Whiteley	(P)
Councillor A Finlay	(A)		

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee

Resolved:

That the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committees held on 26 July and 31 August 2011 be received.

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**Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licence
Suspensions, Revocations and Refusals**

The Licensing Manager introduced the report which concerned the future reporting of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle licence suspensions, revocations and refusals to Committee.

At the Licensing Committee meeting of 21 June 2011 the Committee received a report advising of the revocation of a Private Hire Driver's Licence. After the meeting a number of members queried the policy of anonymously reporting such matters. Members had commented that as licensing is undertaken for the protection of the public, it must be in the public interest to make people aware of the name of any person against whom the Borough Council has taken action. The report proposed that in future such matters will not be reported anonymously, but refusals would be included in a confidential report.

The Committee supported the proposal as disclosure was in the public interest and drivers were in a position of trust. However, the Committee recognised that there could be circumstances where it would not be in the public interest to disclose and delegated to officers that discretion be applied when it could be justified.

Resolved:

That the Head of Administration retain the right to suspend, revoke and refuse applications for hackney carriage and private hire vehicle, driver and operator licences subject to suspensions and revocations being reported to the Licensing Committee in public and (unless the Head of Administration considers it appropriate to report publicly) refusals being reported in confidence.

169 **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Guidelines (Policy)**

The Licensing Manager reported that The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Guidelines setting out the Council's policy in these areas of licensing had been reviewed.

A minor change to the Guidelines was recommended in respect of the policy regarding motoring convictions and the undertaking of the Driving Standards Agency (DSA) Taxi Drivers Test.

The Licensing Manager explained that one revision is recommended in respect of the current policy regarding accumulation of driving licence penalty points. At present the Guidelines state that "Any driver who accumulates more than 9 points on his licence will have his driver's licence suspended pending the completion of the DSA Taxi Drivers Test".

The Licensing Manager suggested that this should be amended to "any driver who accumulates 9 points on his licence will have his driver's licence suspended pending the satisfactory completion of the DSA test.

The Committee noted that the Department for Transport National Travel Survey showed that taxis and private hire vehicles are commonly used by younger people and those on low incomes who do not have access to a household car and for whom such vehicles provide an essential safe form of transport. Women aged 16 to 20 years make the greatest number of trips in taxis and private hire vehicles.

The Committee welcomed the proposal as a further measure to ensure the safety of the public.

Resolved:

That the revision to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Guidelines as set out in paragraph 2.2 of report be adopted.

(Meeting terminated at 6.10 pm)