

Minutes of the **Licensing Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Council Chamber, Duttons Road, Romsey
on Thursday 12 April 2012 at 6.30 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	(A)	Councillor P Lashbrook	(A)
Councillor A Brook	(-)	Councillor N Long	(P)
Councillor J Budzynski	(P)	Councillor I Richards	(P)
Councillor M Cooper	(P)	Councillor A L Tupper	(P)
Councillor B Few Brown	(A)	Councillor J Whiteley	(P)
Councillor A Finlay	(A)		

Also in attendance:

Councillor D Busk
Councillor M Hatley
Councillor N Whiteley
Mr J Pike

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy

The Committee considered a report on the hackney carriage licensing policy.

The Chairman invited Councillor Busk, the Corporate Portfolio Holder, to address the Committee. Councillor Busk drew the Committee's attention to the unmet demand for taxis in the Romsey Station area. He understood that some residents had to book taxis from Andover or Southampton. He suggested that the 5 additional licenses for hackney carriages with wheelchair accessibility which were made available from January 2011 were inappropriate. He made the following proposals:

1. 3 of the 5 plates to be made available for normal hackney carriages.
2. Officers reconsider the implications of lifting the restriction on the number of hackney carriage licenses issued.
3. Network Rail to be asked to improve the signage for taxi availability at Romsey Station.

The Licensing Manager reported that the Borough Council continued to be in a minority of authorities that restricts the number of hackney carriage licences it issued. The policy was last reviewed in October 2010 when it was decided to make available a further five licences for purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles subject to certain conditions.

The Licensing Manager confirmed that none of the five licences had been applied for but the Borough Council continued to receive complaints about the unavailability of wheelchair accessible taxis, particularly in the Romsey area. It was therefore proposed to amend the conditions regarding the age and type approval of any vehicle wishing to utilise one of these additional licences.

The Committee noted that even if additional conventional hackney carriage licenses were made available it could not be guaranteed that the vehicles would operate in the Romsey area. The Licensing Manager informed the Committee that national guidance did not support the policy of zoning to restrict operation. A Member suggested that it should be considered if it could be implemented legally.

The Committee supported the proposals of the Portfolio Holder in principle and agreed that 2 additional hackney carriage licenses should be offered without restriction. The Licensing Manager was also requested to review the policy of deregulation and report back to the Committee once he had undertaken the necessary consultations. He was also requested to raise the possibility of improving the signage for taxis at Romsey Station with Network Rail.

Resolved:

- 1. That the conditions attached to the grant of three of the five additional hackney carriage licences approved by the Committee in October 2010 be amended so that a licence may be granted:**
 - i. If a vehicle is no more than three years old at the time of first licensing; and**
 - ii. A vehicle has either European Whole Vehicle Type Approval, European Community Small Series Type Approval or National (UK) Small Series Type Approval.**
- 2. That the remaining two of the five additional hackney carriage licenses be released for conventional i.e. non wheelchair accessible vehicles.**
- 3. That the Licensing Manager reviews the policy for the deregulation of hackney carriage licenses and report back to Committee once he had undertaken all the necessary consultations.**

398 **Revocation of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence**

Consideration was given to a report of the Head of Administration which informed the Committee that the Head of Administration had revoked a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence under delegated powers.

A Private Hire Vehicle driver had failed to submit a satisfactory medical report in accordance with the medical standards set by the DVLA. The driver in question had reached the age of 50 and was thus asked to submit a medical report with his application to renew his licence. Despite being sent reminders, speaking with officers on several occasions and being given some months to remedy the situation, he failed to do so. He was then given the opportunity of attending for an interview with the Head of Administration but declined to do so. Accordingly the driver had now had his licence revoked.

The applicant had been advised of the right to appeal to the Magistrates Court against the Council's decision provided it was within 21 days of receiving notification from the Council. No appeal notice was lodged.

The matter was reported to the Committee for information only to ensure that the Council's scheme of delegation was complied with. The Licensing Manager stressed that it was important for Members to be made aware of such revocations and the reasons why the decision was taken.

Resolved:

That it be noted that the Head of Administration has revoked a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence.

(Meeting terminated at 7.09 p.m.)