

Minutes of the **Licensing Committee**  
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**  
held in Crosfield Hall, Broadwater Road, Romsey  
on Thursday 18 July 2013 at 5.30 p.m.

Attendance:

<b>Councillor A Hope</b> <b>(Chairman)</b>	(P)	<b>Councillor J Anderdon</b> <b>(Vice-Chairman)</b>	(P)
Councillor I Andersen	(P)	Councillor K Hamilton	(P)
Councillor A Beesley	(P)	Councillor A Johnston	(P)
Councillor A Brook	(A)	Councillor P Lashbrook	(-)
Councillor J Budzynski	(P)	Councillor N Long	(P)
Councillor M Cooper	(A)	Councillor I Richards	(-)
Councillor B Few Brown	(-)	Councillor A Tupper	(A)
Councillor A Finlay	(P)		

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**Declarations of Interest**

In accordance with the Licensing Procedure Rules, Councillor Hamilton declared a code of conduct interest in item 7 as she had family members in the licensed taxi trade. She made a statement and then left the room while the matter was discussed.

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**Minutes**

**Resolved:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 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 5 June 2013 be received.**

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**Licensed Vehicle Age Policy for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles**

The Committee considered a report which proposed to introduce an age and condition policy for vehicles licensed by the Council as hackney carriages or private hire vehicles.

The Licensing Manager explained that the adoption of a vehicle age policy would result in a smart modern fleet which will enhance the character of the Borough and make hackney carriages and private hire vehicles more attractive to the fare paying public. Having a fleet of more modern vehicles will reduce the potential for driver and passenger injuries and address environmental concerns by ensuring that stricter emission level standards are achieved.

Consultation had been undertaken with the vehicle owners and of the 170 owners consulted, responses were received from only 11. All concerns expressed in these responses had been addressed by the Licensing Manager.

The Committee noted that the policy was to be introduced on a phased basis to enable the owners to plan the replacement of their vehicles.

The Committee welcomed the introduction of the Licensed Vehicle Age Policy.

**Resolved:**

- 1. That the licensed vehicle age policy attached as Annex 1 to this report be adopted with effect from 1 October 2014 in respect of vehicles licensed as hackney carriages and private hire vehicles**
- 2. With effect from 1 October 2014 a vehicle first presented for licensing will only be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle if it is no more than five years old**
- 3. With effect from 1 October 2014 there will be an upper age limit beyond which a vehicle will no longer be licensed as a hackney carriage or private hire vehicle starting from 1 October 2014 with vehicles aged over thirteen years reducing so that from 1 October 2017 no vehicle aged over ten years will be licensed**
- 4. With effect from 1 October 2014 an exception to the policy in 3 above be made for purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicles which will continue to be licensed until they reach 12 years of age**
- 5. With effect from 1 October 2014 all vehicles will need to meet the standards set out in Annex 1 attached to this report if they are to be licensed**
- 6. The Head of Administration be given authority to depart from the policy in such cases where departure is justified.**

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**Licensing Sub-Committee**

**Resolved:**

That the membership of the Licensing Sub-Committee be comprised of three members of the Licensing Committee determined in accordance with minute 466 of Licensing Committee 27/01/05, minute 583 of Licensing Committee 20/04/06 and minute 109 of Licensing Committee 26/06/07.

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**Scheme of Delegations to Officers**

**Resolved:**

That the Scheme of Delegations to Officers annexed to the report to Annual Council in so far as it applies to the powers and duties of the Licensing Committee be approved.

(Meeting terminated at 6.19 pm)