

Minutes of the **Licensing Committee**
of the **Test Valley Borough Council**
held in Conference Room 1, Beech Hurst, Weyhill Road, Andover
on Thursday 25 September 2014 at 5.30 p.m.

Attendance:

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

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Minutes

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 May 2014 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

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Hackney Carriage Licensing – Future Policy

The Committee considered a report on the future policy for hackney carriage licensing in the Borough. The Council continued to be in a minority of authorities that restricts the number of hackney carriage licences it issues.

The Licensing Manager reminded the Committee that following consideration of the matter at a meeting on 19 September 2013, a decision was made to issue five additional hackney carriage licences but only for vehicles meeting agreed quality control measures. These licences had now been issued and it was necessary for the Committee to re-visit the current policy.

At its last consideration of the matter the Committee decided to make available a further five licences. These licences had now been issued and the Council was asked to consider whether continued restriction of licence numbers was viable. Whilst de-restriction was perfectly reasonable and lawful, concerns had been raised by existing proprietors and some Members. However, there are potential applicants waiting who, if denied an opportunity of applying for a licence, may take legal action. Consequently officers recommended a repetition of the previous decision of the Committee to issue a limited number of additional licences, subject to them being combined with a policy of quality control.

Members discussed the merits of issuing a further 5 additional hackney carriage vehicle licenses and how many of these vehicles should be wheelchair compliant. The Committee supported the recommendation of the Licensing Manager to issue a further 5 licenses and four of the five would be wheelchair compliant.

Resolved:

1. That with immediate effect the Head of Administration make available for grant a further five additional hackney carriage vehicle licences but only for vehicles which meet the conditions set out in the Annex attached to this report.
2. That a further report on the matter is submitted to the Committee at such time as either all five licences have been issued or there is a change in legislation affecting the Council's ability to restrict licence numbers whichever is soonest.

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Revocation of a Dual Driver's Licence

The Committee received a report by the Licensing Manager regarding the revocation of a dual driver's licence. The Head of Administration had used his delegated powers to suspend a Driver's Licence as a result of the driver failing to submit a satisfactory medical report. Members of the Licensing Committee had previously requested that they be informed of any occasions when refusals, suspensions and revocations occur.

Resolved:

That it be noted that the Head of Administration had suspended a Dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence.

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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.

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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, minute 109 of Licensing Committee 26/06/07 and minute 126 of Licensing Committee 19/9/2013.

(Meeting terminated at 5.53 pm)