

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING : Tuesday, 16th November 2010

PRESENT : Cllrs. Durrant (Chair), C. Witts (Vice-Chair), Gillespie, Tracey, Noakes (Spokesperson), Gill, Brown, Dee, Porter, Taylor, Beeley and Dallimore

Officers in Attendance

Gill Ragon, Group Manager, Environmental Health and Regulatory Services

Lisa Wilkes, Food Safety and Licensing Service Manager

Steve Isaac, Solicitor

Amanda Tarren, Democratic Services Officer

APOLOGIES : Cllr. Field

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

25. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on 12 October 2010 were approved as a correct record.

26. MINUTES OF LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEES

The minutes of the Sub-Committees held on 13 September 2010, 26 October 2010 and 1 November 2010 were approved as a correct record.

27. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

28. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

Chas Rogers spoke on behalf of the Hackney Carriage Association, in connection with the Taxi and Private Hire Scrutiny Study. He stressed the importance of clarifying the differences between private hire vehicles and Hackney Carriage vehicles.

29. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE SCRUTINY STUDY

The Committee considered a report regarding the current levels of demand for Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles and the current policy of Gloucester City Council regarding the licensing of these services. Officers clarified the following:

- There was no legal limit on the number of private hire licences.
- The number of Hackney Carriages could be limited.

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE
16.11.10

- Local Authorities will be required to ensure a percentage of vehicles with wheelchair access with effect from April 2011.
- The consultation with disabled forums and different areas of the city had proved difficult due to the costs involved and time constraints.

RESOLVED

1. To accept the report and the recommendations made in the Taxi Scrutiny Study Action Plan in full in line with 2.1(b), but with the additional recommendations as follows:
2. To clarify the details of the proposed new rank on Southgate Street outside Café Rene noted in the action plan.
3. To clarify the moving of the rank on Eastgate Street in the report.
4. The next tender for a taxi/private hire scrutiny study be discussed at the Licensing and Enforcement Committee to agree terms and recommendations before a further study is carried out.

30. USE OF POWER IN CONSTITUTION TO SET UP A SUB-COMMITTEE OR SUB-COMMITTEES TO DISCHARGE FUNCTIONS

The Committee considered a report outlining options to hear private hire disciplinaries following several prosecutions at the Magistrates Court. The following options were discussed:

1. To call 1 or 2 Special Licensing and Enforcement Committees
2. To use delegated powers as set out in the Constitution Part 3 Responsibility for Functions paragraph 5 (a) (v), page 25 and set up 1 or more sub-committees consisting of 5 members (or any other number deemed to be appropriate) of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee to determine disciplinary hearings for the recent Private Hire prosecution cases
3. To programme all cases with other work over the next 2 or 3 Licensing and Enforcement Committees.

RESOLVED

Members opted to call 2 special meetings of the Licensing and Enforcement Committee of the full committee.

31. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 14 December 2010 at 18.30 hours

Time of commencement: 18:30 hours

Time of conclusion: 20:08 hours

Chair