

**MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Date of Meeting: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2007**

**Present: Councillor D Barnes (in the Chair)  
Councillors Cheetham, Dickinson, Eaton, Entwistle, C Gill,  
P Gill, Lynskey, Morris, Sandiford, H Steen, P Steen and  
Unsworth.**

**In Attendance: T Brzozowski, Licensing Manager  
S Bithell, Senior Solicitor  
D Hamill, Licensing Enforcement Officer  
J Cook, Committee Officer**

**Also Present: 6 Members of the Taxi Trade/Public**

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## **BUSINESS MATTERS**

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor L Barnes.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had an interest in any matters to be discussed at the meeting, however no declarations of interest were made.

### **3. MINUTES**

#### **Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

### **4. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

By virtue of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Chair agreed that the following item of business be dealt with at the meeting as a matter of urgency as an update on this matter was required from the previous Committee.

Minute Number 7 – Update on 24/7 Taxi Rank at Bank Street and James Street.

## **OPERATIONAL MATTERS**

### **5. GUIDELINES TO CONVICTIONS & STATEMENT OF POLICY**

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager in respect of adopting new Guidelines to Convictions and Statement of Policy. It was noted that this document intended to replace the existing policy on convictions and would provide consistency in the administration and consideration of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage applications.

**Resolved:**

That the Policy be recommended for approval by the Cabinet on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2007.

**6. UPDATE ON LUMB SCAR TAXI RANK**

Councillor Eaton provided the Committee with a verbal update on Lumb Scar Taxi Rank. It was noted that this matter had been ongoing since April 2004 and the completion of the rank was the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Works were anticipated to commence early April 2007. Councillor Eaton thanked the Licensing Unit staff and the trade for their patience during this time.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer also updated the Committee on Licensing Unit progress.

**Resolved:**

1. That the verbal reports be noted.
2. That the Chair and the Licensing Manager be requested to write on behalf of the Committee to Lancashire County Council to establish a schedule of works and continue to monitor progress.

**7. UPDATE ON 24/7 TAXI RANK AT BANK STREET & JAMES STREET, RAWTENSTALL**

The Licensing Manager verbally updated the meeting with respect to a request from the taxi trade for a 24/7 taxi rank on Bank Street Rawtenstall. The Licensing Manager had responded to the request and had informed the taxi trade that to extend the hours of the rank would exceed the permitted authority of Rossendale Borough Council and she had advised them to consult Lancashire County Council directly on the matter. However it was pointed out to the trade that as the area suffered from extensive congestion, it was unlikely that that such an extension would be permitted.

The Licensing Manager verbally updated the meeting with respect to a request from the taxi trade to use 5 car parking spaces in James Street, Rawtenstall. The Licensing Manager had responded to the request and had informed the trade that the spaces were subject to a Traffic Regulation Order and the authority to amend such an order was with Lancashire County Council. The trade were advised to contact Lancashire County Council directly.

**Resolved:**

That the verbal report be noted.

**8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**Resolved:**

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve disclosure of exempt information

relating to an individual as defined in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**9. NEW APPLICATION - HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR AH**

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented a report detailing the circumstances of the application. The Applicant, who was accompanied by a friend, put his case to the Committee.

The Committee considered the report in accordance with the procedure.

The Applicant, his friend and the Licensing Unit Staff retired from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

**Resolved:**

1. That the application for a Hackney Carriage drivers licence not be granted under Section 59(1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act as the Committee could not be satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage drivers licence.
2. That the applicant be informed of the decision in writing and be advised of his right of appeal before the Magistrates' Court.

**10. NEW APPLICATION – PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE – MR RS**

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented a report detailing the circumstances of the application. The Applicant presented his case to the Committee.

The Committee considered the report in accordance with the procedure.

The Applicant and Licensing Unit Staff retired from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

**Resolved:**

That the licence be granted under Section 51(1)(c) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

**11. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chair thanked members of the Taxi Trade for their participation in the meeting and noted the support given to applicants.

**The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed at 8.25pm**