

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Licensing Committee**
held on Monday, 30th March, 2009 at The Capesthorne Room , Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1DX

PRESENT

Councillor P Whiteley (Chairman)

Councillors Rachel Bailey, Rhoda Bailey, G Baxendale, H Davenport,
B Dykes, L Gilbert, E Gilliland, J Goddard, M Hardy, T Ranfield and
C Tomlinson.

39 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bebbington, M Parsons
and T Beard.

40 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

41 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

In accordance with Procedure Rules 11 and 35 Mr Fiddler addressed the
Committee. He spoke on behalf of a number of hackney carriage and private hire
drivers in respect of their concerns regarding the conditions of operation
approved at the last meeting, and on the fees and charges to be considered later
in this meeting.

42 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2009 be
approved as a correct record.

43 FEES AND CHARGES

Consideration was given to a report on the responses to the consultation exercise
on fees and charges and the Committee was requested to determine the fees to
be charged by the Council in relation to the licensing of hackney carriage and
private hire vehicles, drivers and operators.

Further to the information contained in the agenda reports two additional items of
information were circulated at the meeting. The first was a schedule of
comments/objections relating to the harmonising exercise, submitted on behalf of
the taxi drivers, and the second was a breakdown of the costs used to calculate
the base budget for licensing costs.

In order to be able to properly assess the fees proposed, the basis of which was
the reasonable recovery of the cost to the Council of the issue and administration
of the grant of hackney carriage/private hire drivers licences, the Committee

requested clarification of how the figures used to calculate the base budget for licensing costs had been calculated. The Committee was informed that due to the difficulties arising from comparing three different accounting systems a more detailed analysis would need to be carried out in order to provide this information.

It was, therefore, requested that a decision on this matter be deferred for a period of one month in order to allow time for the additional financial information requested by the Committee to be prepared, and that appropriate arrangements be made for a meeting of the Committee to be held at that time. It was noted that any licences that became due for renewal in the intervening period would be renewed at the existing rates.

RESOLVED - that a decision on the fees to be charged by Cheshire East Council in relation to the licensing of hackney carriage vehicles and drivers and private hire vehicles, drivers and operators be deferred, and that a further report be considered at a meeting of the Committee in approximately one month's time.

44 PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENSING

Consideration was given to an amendment to the licence conditions for private hire vehicles. At its meeting on 13 March 2009 the Committee had approved these conditions but it transpired that there was an error in condition 9.1 and this now needed to be rectified.

It was recommended that the words "which has been notified to the Council" be added to condition 9.1 (iii) and (viii). The Committee clarified this further by adding "but not approved" to the additional wording.

RESOLVED

That the words "which has been notified to but not approved by the Council" be added to condition 9.1 (iii) and (viii) of the licence conditions for private hire vehicles.

45 TAXI LICENSING - MEDICALS

Consideration was given to proposals in relation to medical certification relating to applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences.

RESOLVED –

1. That the application of the Group II medical standards in relation to applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences be confirmed.
2. That the medical certification form as appended to the report be approved.
3. That the adoption of the C1 standards in relation to applicants with insulin treated diabetes be approved.

46 TAXI LICENSING - CONVICTIONS POLICY

Consideration was given to a proposed policy on convictions for applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences, and licence holders who committed offences. Members of the Committee asked for consideration to be given to the inclusion of threatening or abusive violent behaviour in the policy of relevant convictions and it was agreed that this should be investigated further.

RESOLVED – that the inclusion of threatening or abusive violent behaviour in the policy of relevant convictions be investigated and a further report be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.00 pm

Councillor P Whiteley (Chairman)