

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17th DECEMBER 2009

Present:

Councillor Parnell (Chair)

Councillors Baillie, Cunio, Drake, Fitzgerald, Letts, Norris, Odgers, Osmond, Thomas and Willacy.

Apologies: Councillors Mrs Blatchford and Galton.

8. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 26th November 2009 be approved and signed as a correct record. (Copy of the minutes circulated with the agenda and appended to the signed minutes).

9. **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED that in accordance with the Council's Constitution, specifically the Access to Information Rules, the press and public be excluded from the meeting in respect of the consideration of the following item on grounds based on Category 5 of paragraph 10.4 of the Council's Access to Information Procedure Rules as it is not in the public interest to disclose such legal advice as such advice is privileged to enable to Council to undertake its functions in a lawful way.

10. **HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE AND DRIVER POLICIES**

The Committee considered the confidential report of the Solicitor to the Council concerning revisions and clarification in respect of the Council's policy in relation to licensing matters and varied or new vehicle or driver conditions as approved at the last meeting, attached.

RESOLVED

- (i) that the decision of 26th August 2009 Minute No 2 approving revised and additional Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicle and driver conditions be reaffirmed, subject to the following revisions in italics as clarification in respect of each of the resolutions so as to indicate which are revisions to the Council's policy in relation to licensing matters and which are varied or new vehicle or driver conditions as set in (ii) below;
- (ii) that the following [additional and revised conditions – delete] *amendments to policy* as set out in the *reports* to the *meetings* held on 6th May and 26th August 2009 as amended with a view to improving the quality of both vehicles and the service provided by drivers be implemented with immediate effect:-

- (a) (i) Basic Skills Assessment for all new drivers prior to the issue of any licence and (ii) the B Tech qualification for Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire to be passed within the first six months of being licensed for all new drivers. *A condition to this effect to be added to all new driver licences;*
 - (b) all existing drivers who have held a licence with the Council for less than three years be required to pass the B Tech qualification for Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire;
 - (c) driving assessments for all new drivers and existing drivers in exceptional circumstances. *Such assessments be undertaken by suitably qualified and independent assessors as appointed by the Licensing Manager;*
 - (d) amend the requirement *in the Council's policy* for minimum engine size of 1598cc to minimum of 68bhp or equivalent power output;
 - (e) all vehicles over two years old, licensed by the Council be required to undergo a Vosa Mot test within the period one week either side of the date six months after the grant of the vehicle licence. *To be added as an additional vehicle condition ;*
 - (f) all vehicles to be maintained in their original specification for the duration of any licence issued. *To be added as an additional vehicle condition;*
 - (g) in line with Government and Council priorities on crime and disorder, public and driver safety all licensed vehicles be fitted with Council approved digital cameras at the time a current licensed vehicle is replaced with the cost to the proprietor/driver capped at £250 excluding VAT and fitting costs. *Appropriate new conditions will be added on both grant and renewal of vehicle licences; and*
- (iii) that the Solicitor to the Council be authorised to approve the final wording of *the revisions set out in (ii) above.*