

REPORT OF STATUTORY LICENSING COMMITTEE AND THE LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

1. This report sets out a brief summary of the main items considered at the meetings of the Statutory Licensing Committee and the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 7 June 2006.
2. This report also refers to the meetings of the Licensing and Safety Committee and Statutory Licensing Committees held on 5 April 2006 which were unable to be reported to the ordinary Council meeting held on 11 April 2006.

Statutory Licensing Committee - 5 April 2006

3. The Committee was requested to consider an application for the granting of a gaming machine permit under Section 34 of the Gaming Act 1968 for amusements with prizes machines to be installed in the premises known as "The Sir Henry Tate" in Cleveland Street.
4. We agreed to the permit subject to the machines being located in the position identified on the submitted layout plan and a final inspection of the premises by the Council's Officers and the Police.

Licensing and Safety Committee - 5 April 2006

Annual Review of Licence Fees

5. We received a report of the Deputy Director of Legal Services reviewing the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licence fees charged by the Council and recommending adoption of a revised fee structure with effect from 1 April 2006.
- 6., We agreed the increase in fees which were in line with inflation.

Criteria for issue of additional Hackney Carriage Vehicles Licences

7. The Committee was requested to determine the criteria to be applied to the seven additional hackney carriage vehicle licences which the Committee had agreed to issue following consideration of an independent consultants' report into the demand for hackney carriage services in the Borough.
8. We agreed to the adoption of a number of mandatory and discretionary criteria in respect of the seven new hackney carriage vehicle and driver licences authorised for issue on 29 April 2005.

Licensing and Safety Committee - 20 April 2006

Application for licence for a House to House Collection

9. The Committee was asked to reconsider an application for a licence under the House to House Collection Act 1939 to conduct a House to House collection in the Borough between 24 April and 13 May 2006, as it had been established that Members should have been made aware of facts that had not been included in the report when the Committee originally considered the item at its previous meeting on 5 April.
10. We agreed for the original decision to be rescinded and for the application to be granted.

Licensing and Safety Committee - 7 June 2006

Stretched Limousines - Exception to License Conditions Regarding Colour

11. We considered a report bringing our attention to a problem that could arise regarding the licensing of stretched limousines.
12. The Committee had previously agreed that all hackney carriages must be white and all private hire vehicles must be any colour except white, to emphasise the difference between hackney carriage and private hire vehicles for the benefit of the users of these vehicles.
13. A problem had arisen requiring licensing a stretched limousine as the licence condition did not allow white private hire vehicles. Many of these limousines were supplied as white vehicles and it would be unreasonable to expect the owners to change the colour.
14. We agreed to amend the condition that private hire vehicles should not be white unless it was a stretched limousine or other similar vehicle that is acceptable for licensing as a private hire vehicle.

Vocational Training for Hackney/Private Hire Drivers

15. We received a report on discussions that had taken place with officers regarding the possible introduction of vocational training for drivers of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.
16. The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee had in its good practice guide 2003 emphasised the need for driver training for taxi drivers in dealing with disabled people.
17. Other Councils had already addressed this matter and had adopted different approaches.
18. Representatives of the Licensing Section of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Councils had discussed with representatives from Runshaw College who had outline proposals for a vocational training course for new applicants for hackney and private hire drivers licence.
19. We requested a report to a future meeting giving details of other providers of driver training, comparisons with other local authorities and the costs to the taxi trade of such training.

Statutory Licensing Committee - 7 June 2006

Licensing Act 2003 - Membership of Statutory Licensing Sub-Committees A and B

20. We were requested to determine the allocation of the membership of the Statutory Licensing Sub-Committees A and B in order to discharge functions under Sections 6 and 7 of the Licensing Act 2003. Membership of the Sub-committees each comprise of three members from the Statutory Licensing Committee.
21. We agreed that to retain the flexibility when arranging meetings of the Sub-Committee, the membership comprise of Councillor Mrs I Smith as Chair of Sub-Committee A and Councillor Edward Smith as Chair of Sub-Committee B and the remaining two members for each Sub-Committee to come from those Councillors of the Statutory Licensing Committee who are available to attend.

Arrangements for the Gambling Act 2005

22. We were informed and updated on arrangements for the Gambling Act 2005, indicating the planning timetable for its implementation.

Recommendation

23. The Council is recommended to note this report.

COUNCILLOR MRS I SMITH

Chairman of Licensing and Statutory Committee and the Statutory Licensing Committee