

**LICENSING COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2010**

**PRESENT** – *Councillor Konrad Tapp (in the Chair), Councillors Barry, Davies, Gee, Hussain I, Oldfield, Pearson D, Rehman, Smith J, Solkar, Walsh and Wright.*

**RESOLUTIONS**

**7 Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked the Committee to note that Councillor Melia would no longer be Vice Chair, and that Councillor Maxfield would take this role. Councillor Maxfield sent his apologies for this meeting.

**8 Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

**9 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**10 Review of the Statement of Licensing Policy**

A report was submitted to inform Members of the current triennial review of the Statement of Licensing Policy.

The Committee was informed that each Licensing Authority must in respect of each three year period –

Determine its policy with respect to the exercise of its licensing functions, and

Publish a statement of that policy (a licensing statement) before the beginning of that period.

Before determining its policy for a three year period, a licensing authority must consult-

The chief officer of police for the licensing authority's area

The fire authority for that area

Such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of premises licences issued by the authority

Such persons as the licensing authority consider being representative of holders of club premises certificates issued by the authority.

Such persons as the licensing authority considers to be representative of holders of personal licences issued the authority, and

Such other persons as the licensing authority consider being representative of businesses and residents in its area.

Where revisions are made, the licensing authority must publish a statement of the revisions or a revised licensing statement. The current proposed Statement of Licensing Policy is in consultation, this commenced on 1st July and will run till 30th September 2010.

Consultations will be carried out, via a mail shot, with all the authorities as laid down in statute, and with trade organisations. Awareness of the policy review will be raised for residents of the borough via the shared neighbourhood centres, and promotion on the Councils website.

**RESOLVED** - That the report be noted

## **11 Presentation – The Outcome of the Disability Impact Assessment**

A presentation was given by Donna Riding to the Committee, giving the findings from the Disability Impact Assessment for four wheelchair accessible Hackney Carriages, undertaken on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

The four vehicles were:

1. TX4 – the latest model of the traditional London style Black Cab (earlier models of this vehicle are currently licensed in Blackburn with Darwen – TX2)
2. Peugeot E7 – a converted purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicle
3. Mercedes Vito (M8) – a converted purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicle
4. Peugeot Premier – a converted purpose built wheelchair accessible vehicle

The volunteers were asked to assess each vehicle in the following areas :

1. Ease of entering and exiting each vehicle – with the aids available on each vehicle i.e. ramps, steps, swivel seats and grab handles.
2. The safety features of each vehicle – anchorage points, head and back restraints
3. The comfort of each vehicle
4. Whether or not they felt the vehicles compromised their dignity in any way.

The overall scores for each vehicle were:

- |                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| 1. TX4             | 4.1 |
| 2. Mercedes Vito   | 3.6 |
| 3. Peugeot E7      | 4.2 |
| 4. Peugeot Premier | 4.1 |

A detailed breakdown of the scores were distributed at the meeting.

The recommended specification for vehicles to be licensed as Hackney Carriages were:

1. Every Taxi Cab submitted for approval as a hackney carriage must be designed and developed exclusively for use as a wheelchair accessible vehicle (therefore incorporating a built-in taxi light as an integral part of the structure) have M1 classification and comply in all respects to EC Whole Vehicle Type Approval (ECWVTA) and be unaltered since type approval.
2. If a vehicle has been registered with DVLA and issued with an appropriate registration index number, no change, structural alteration or rearrangement of detail shall be carried out to the vehicle unless such change shall be subsequently granted M1 Whole Vehicle Type Approval.
3. The exterior colour of all authorised hackney carriages must be black, unless the vehicle is a London Type cab, in which case it may be any colour.
4. Wheelchair Access Equipment – Ramp: A purpose – designed wheelchair single plate access ramp which must be permanently installed in the vehicle and be lightweight and easy to deploy. An add on removable section would be deemed to meet this requirement. The installed ramp must have a minimum safe working load of 300kgs. Ramps and fittings must comply with British Standards 6109.
5. General Entry and Exit Requirements: The vehicle shall have a minimum of 2 means of exit from the passenger compartment behind the driver for emergency situations. The means of exit shall be free of any obstructions, reachable from all parts of the rear passenger compartment. Any gap through which a passenger can be expected to pass shall be a minimum of 400mm through an adult can pass freely in a normal manner without any undue difficulty.
6. Floor height, steps and handrails – At the main access door into the passenger area of the vehicle, steps shall be provided to aid ingress/egress as follows:  
Where the internal floor height of the vehicle exceeds 300mm an intermediate step shall be fitted every 250mm from the road level up to the internal floor height. All steps must be capable of supporting a minimum weight of 150kg.  
Handrails must be fitted in appropriate positions in all passenger access doors so as to assist (intending) passengers and facilitate the use of steps where provided. All handrails shall be highlighted in a contrasting high-visibility colour to match handrails and seat markings.

**RESOLVED** - That the presentation be noted

**12 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

It was resolved that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

**13 Minutes of the General Licensing Sub Committees**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meetings of the General Licensing Sub Committees held on 8<sup>th</sup> June and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010 were confirmed by Members present who had served at those meetings and were signed as a correct record.

Signed.....  
Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....