

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING (REGULATORY) COMMITTEE
24 SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Mr. K. Nichols - CHAIRMAN

Mr. J.G. Bannister, Mr. J.C. Bown, Mr. M.B. Cartwright,
Mrs. S. Francks, Mr. D.M. Gould, Mrs. A. Hall, Mr. R. Mayne,
Mr. K. Morrell and Mr. A.J. Smith

Officers in attendance: Mr. Mark Brymer, Mr. S. Merry,
Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. M. Rice

199 **APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. P.R. Batty, S.L. Bray, P.A.S. Hall, C.G. Joyce, L.J.P. O'Shea and Mr. B.E. Sutton and the following substitutions authorised in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3:-

Mr. Bannister for Mr. Joyce
Mrs. Hall for Mr. Hall

200 **MINUTES (LR1)**

It was moved by Mr. Bannister, seconded by Mr. Mayne and

RESOLVED - the minutes of the meeting held on 30 April 2008 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

At this juncture, by invitation of the Chairman and further to Minute No. 326 of 13 November 2007, the Principal Licensing Officer updated the Committee on the possible introduction of a Designated Public Place Order. There were ongoing discussions with the Police as to whether alcohol-free zones should be created other than within Hinckley town centre and a Borough-wide order introduced.

Mr. Morrell entered the meeting at 6.37 pm.

It was emphasised that before any decision was taken there would be widespread consultation and a comprehensive report brought to this Committee for consideration.

201 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared at this stage.

202 **DRAFT TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY (LR2)**

Further to discussions at the conclusion of the Committee meeting on 30 April 2008 on a review of the Council's Taxi and Private Hire Licensing

Policy, the Principal Licensing Officer presented a draft revised Policy to Members for approval, prior to consultation. Although a relatively complex and technical document which was aimed at the taxi and private hire trade the consultation would be wide-ranging. At the conclusion of the consultation period all responses would be collated and a Summary of Responses produced. A decision would then be made by this Committee as to which policies and procedures it was proposing to adopt and which would be applied when the Council exercised its taxi licence functions.

Discussion ensued regarding the following:-

- The introduction of a Driving Standards Agency (DSA) assessment for all new drivers.
- The maximum age of vehicles.
- The wearing of seat belts by rear seat passengers.

The Principal Licensing Officer indicated that the new Policy had been drafted following guidelines of "Best or Good Practice" issued by the Department for Transport and that it was the intention to implement this Policy next year. However, certain aspects of the Policy will be phased in over the next three years, such as the DSA driving tests, the NVQ qualification and the issuing of new Hackney Carriage plates to wheelchair accessible vehicles from 1 January 2010.

There was discussion about an age restriction on licensed vehicles and the Principal Licensing Officer advised Members of the need to be careful about fettering their discretion, although many authorities had a five year age policy. It was important that such a Policy was not applied arbitrarily.

Additionally, standards within this Authority were high. So far as a reference within the Policy to seatbelts was concerned the Principal Licensing Officer undertook to add more text. A Member indicated anomalies in relation to the refund of fees and again the Principal Licensing Officer undertook to amend these.

It was moved by Mr. Cartwright, seconded by Mr. Bown and

RESOLVED - the draft Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy be approved for consultation.

(The meeting closed at 7.12 pm)