

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL
LICENSING (REGULATORY) COMMITTEE
30 APRIL 2008 AT 6.30PM

PRESENT: Mrs. S. Francks - CHAIRMAN
Mr. C.G. Joyce - VICE-CHAIRMAN

Messrs. P. R. Batty, J. C. Bown, M. B. Cartwright, R. Mayne,
K. Morrell, K. Nichols, L. J. P. O'Shea and Mr B. E. Sutton

Officers in attendance: Mr. Mark Brymer, Ms E Garnet,
Mrs. P.I. Pitt and Mr. S. Merry

575 APOLOGIES AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Messrs. D. M. Gould, P.A.S. Hall and Dr. J. R. Moore

576 MINUTES (LR5)

It was moved by Mr Nichols, seconded by Mr. Joyce and

RESOLVED – the minutes of the meeting held on 29 August 2007 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

577 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No interests were declared at this stage.

578 REGULATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENCE PLATES (LR6)

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. Tina Duane of the Hinckley and Bosworth Taxi Drivers Association and Mrs. Alison Taylor of the Independent Drivers Association, who both attended for this item.

The Principal Licensing Officer reported the receipt of a letter and petition from some members of the taxi trade requesting that the Council restrict the number of hackney carriage vehicle licences issued within the Borough. Following this request, the reasons for which were outlined, the Principal Licensing Officer had written to all drivers licensed by the Council. The responses received were appended to the report of the Director of Community and Planning Services.

In outlining to Members the options to regulate the issue of hackney carriage vehicle licence plates the Principal Licensing Officer reported the views of the Government and the Office of Fair Trading on limiting the number of hackney carriage vehicle licenses. The response from both clearly indicated that they would not wish to see a restriction on the number of hackney carriage licenses issued. Since the number of licensed drivers in this Borough had remained constant over the last four years there appeared to be a sustainable trade so that no restrictions may be necessary. It was emphasised that the Council's statutory role was that of the safety of the public.

On the motion of Mr Bown, seconded by Mr O'Shea it was

RESOLVED –

the retention of the current Council policy not to impose quantity restrictions in respect of the number of Hackney Carriage Licences issued within the Borough be agreed.

(The meeting closed at 7.06 pm)

Discussion followed on an intended full review of taxi licensing by the Principal Licensing Officer and it was agreed that a new comprehensive Policy encompassing environmental aspects be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.