



Committee and Date
Strategic Licensing
Committee

16 March 2011
10.00am

Item

3

Public

**MINUTES OF THE STRATEGIC LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2011 AT 10.00AM IN THE SHREWSBURY ROOM,
THE SHIREHALL, SHREWSBURY**

Responsible Officer Adrian Dean
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Present

Mr P Adams, Mr W Benyon, Mr A Davies, Mr R Huffer, Mr K Roberts, Mrs D M Shingleton, Mrs R Taylor-Smith (Chairman) and Mr R Tindall.

Also in attendance

Mrs C Motley.

32. CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting and indicated to the public that the committee would not be in a position to determine the question of wheelchair accessible hackney carriages and thus other conditions relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles. She indicated that it was hoped that this would be considered at the 16 March meeting of the committee once the case currently progressing through the court of appeal has been determined.

33. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs T Huffer.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None Declared.

35. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2010 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

36. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Sheena Parry – Licensing Consultant, representing Bridgnorth Drivers Action Group, made a statement and asked a question relating to the Council's de-zoning policy. Similarly, Patrick Nolan – on behalf of Shrewsbury Drivers Action Group, made a statement relating to fare cards for hackney carriages and de-zoning. Mark Morris a local private hire operator and driver also made a statement regarding the age of vehicles, the use of door identification notices and roof signs of taxis and private hire vehicles. Mark Higgins of Oswestry Taxi Drivers Association also made a statement regarding the ability of the Council to only recover the cost of issuing licences through licence fees and not the cost of enforcement.

The Chairman responded to the questions raised.

37. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FEES AND CHARGES

The Licensing Team Leader indicated how many responses had been received and highlighted some of the points raised in the report.

A member pointed out that the main decision at this meeting would not be the final decision, but if objections were made any such objections would be considered at the meeting in March 2011.

Another member felt that the Council had taken account of the comments that had been received in relation to the types of journeys made, the length of journeys and those submitted by the Taxi Forums.

The Solicitor reminded the committee that although the committee had recommended the adoption abolition of taxi zones, Council had not yet given its approval.

RESOLVED: that the five tables of fares for hackney carriages as set out in Appendix A of the report be approved and advertised in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and;

- i) if no representation is made to be adopted in all existing five zones on 5th March 2011.
- ii) any representation made be reported back to this committee for consideration in March 2011.

38. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FEES AND CHARGES

The Head of Trading Standards introduced the report and indicated that several responses to the consultation had been received and that as a result of those, changes to the original proposals had been put forward.

A member picked up on a comment made during public questions which suggested that the recommendation meant that zones were being abolished by stealth. He said that it was fair and logical for the area to have one fare structure to apply to all the zones.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to set the fees laid out in Appendix 2 of the report to come into effect at midnight on 31 March 2011, and in relation to hackney carriages, that the fees apply across zones 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

CHAIRMAN.....

DATE.....