

AGENDA



For a meeting of the
LICENSING COMMITTEE
to be held on
FRIDAY, 7 OCTOBER 2011
at
10.45 AM
in the
COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL OFFICES, ST. PETER'S HILL, GRANTHAM
Beverly Agass, Chief Executive

Committee Members:	Councillor Pam Bosworth (Chairman), Councillor Robert Broughton, Councillor George Chivers, Councillor Breda Griffin, Councillor Reginald Howard, Councillor Vic Kerr, Councillor Graddon Rowlands, Councillor Bob Russell (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Susan Sandall, Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor and Councillor Frank Turner
Committee Support Officer:	Lucy Bonshor 01476 40 61 20 l.bonshor@southkesteven.gov.uk

Members of the Committee are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed below.

- 1. APOLOGIES**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
Members are asked to declare an interest in matters for consideration at the meeting.
- 3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 5TH SEPTEMBER 2011**
(Enclosure)

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

It is anticipated that, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business because of the likelihood that otherwise exempt information, as described in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Act (as amended) would be disclosed to the public.

4. APPLICATION TO RENEW A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE

Report ENV551 from the Community Safety & Licensing Service Manager
(Enclosure)

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN, BY REASON OF SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, DECIDES IS URGENT.

MINUTES

LICENSING COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2011



COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Councillor Pam Bosworth (Chairman)
Councillor Robert Broughton
Councillor Breda Griffin
Councillor Reginald Howard
Councillor Vic Kerr

Councillor Graddon Rowlands
Councillor Bob Russell (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Mrs Jean Taylor
Councillor Frank Turner

OFFICERS

Community Safety & Licensing Service Manager (Mark Jones)
Licensing Officers (Peter Harrison, Pam Robinson)
Legal Advisor/Solicitor (Paul Rushworth)
Democratic Officer (Lucy Bonshor)

15. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Chivers.

16. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

17. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 5TH AUGUST 2011

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th August were agreed as a correct record of the decisions taken.

18. ADOPTION OF THE NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY AND AMENDMENTS

Decision:

- 1) *The Licensing Committee has considered the responses received during the consultation period and endorses the recommendations from the Licensing Officers in relation to the comments received as shown in appendix 1 to report ENV546.*

2) *The Licensing Committee recommends to Cabinet the adoption of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy with the revised time line.*

Members had before them report ENV546 by the Service Manager Community Safety and Licensing. The report concerned the recent consultation that had taken place on the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy and the responses received. The Service Manager Community Safety and Licensing informed the Committee that there was no statutory duty on local authorities to produce a policy but district council's were entitled to adopt a policy to guide and inform members, the trade and the general public on the standards it considers necessary in maintaining and improving standards of drivers and vehicles. Consultation was undertaken between May 2011 and August 2011 with the following stakeholders:

- Licence holders
- Local trade organisations
- Disability groups
- Lincolnshire Police
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Local Authorities in Lincolnshire
- General public
- Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA)
- Other authority services

The responses received were mainly from taxi operators and drivers. The Service Manager Community Safety and Licensing then highlighted to Members the main points of amendments with the proposed new Licensing Policy. One of the main points was the introduction of a penalty point system as outlined within the policy to help maintain a higher standard as there was recent evidence that operators were not adhering to what was expected of them. He asked the Committee if they would be happy for this element of the policy to be brought forward to be implemented from the 1st January 2012. Members felt that the point system was a good addition to the policy and they agreed to that part of the policy being implemented from 1st January 2012.

The Service Manager Community Safety and Licensing then referred to the introduction of an age restriction on vehicles and outlined how this would work. Dual plating of vehicles would not be allowed and the policy clarified that an age exemption regarding prestige vehicles would only apply to private hire vehicles. The age of vehicles had been referred to in the responses received and the policy which the council proposed brought it in line with the County Council's contract vehicles, although this would be kept under review. The Licensing Officer then referred to the display of plates, which should be on the outside of vehicles at the rear. Robust wording was to be included within the policy stating clearly stating that no plate was to be placed in the back window of vehicles. Members sort clarity on various points raised with one Member raising an issue about double parking to which the Service Manager

Community Safety and Licensing said he would pass on to the police liaison team. All Members agreed that the proposed document be forwarded to Cabinet for approval. On being put to the vote it was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed.

19. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 4.08pm.

Agenda Item 4

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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