

# Minutes

## Licensing Committee

6th June 2007



Present:

Councillors	Present	Councillors	Present
M J Banthorpe (Chairman)	Yes	M Lynch	Yes
K E Bigden	Yes	T McArdle	Yes
J C Collar	Apologies	A M Meyer	Apologies
J G J Elliott	Apologies	Mrs J A Pell	Yes
J H G Finbow	Yes	D E A Rice	Yes
Mrs S A Howell	Yes	A F Shelton	Yes
P J Hughes	Yes	F Swallow	Apologies
E R Lynch	Yes		

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Members received a presentation on the Councillor's role as a Licensing Committee Member.

### 3 **COUNCIL POLICY – CODE OF CONDUCT**

DECISION: The Committee noted the recommendation from the Standards Committee of 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 which had been approved by Council on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 requiring all Members of the Planning and Licensing Committees to receive training on the Code of Conduct (including pre-determination and bias) within three months of the District Council Elections in May 2007.

### 4 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

INFORMATION: There were no interests declared.

### 5 **QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions asked or statements made.

### 6 **MINUTES**

DECISION: That the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee held on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2007 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 7 **CURRENT ISSUES**

INFORMATION: Miss R Smith, Licensing Manager, gave a presentation on current licensing issues.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles: Livery – It was reported that discussions were on-going with representatives of the taxi trade regarding livery displayed on

vehicles. It was proposed that signs should be displayed on the front, side and rear of all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles and also internally, to clearly show that the vehicle was licensed with the local authority. This was in accordance with best practice and would improve public safety.

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles: Disability Discrimination – Members were advised that Government Regulations required all Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles to be wheelchair accessible by 2012. The drivers of such vehicles would also have to be suitably trained to ensure that they were able to assist a person in a wheelchair to get into and out of the vehicle. A DVD illustrating how this should be done would be used for training purposes and it was agreed that this should be viewed by Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

Street Trading Policy – The Council's street trading policy had been reviewed and it had been the subject of public consultation in May 2007. A report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.

Pavement Permit Policy – The Council's Pavement Permit Policy had now been approved and applications would be invited soon.

Gambling Act – Training on the requirements of the Gambling Act would take place at Hylands House, Chelmsford on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2007 between 9.30am and 4.00pm. All new Licensing Committee Members were invited to attend this training as without this they would not be able to take part in future Licensing Hearings. Any spare spaces on the training course would be offered to other Members of the Committee.

## 8 **APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES**

### (1) Taxi Association Liaison Panel

DECISION: That Councillors M J Banthorpe, K E Bigden, Mrs S A Howell, M Lynch, Mrs J A Pell, D E A Rice and A F Shelton be appointed to the Taxi Association Liaison Panel for the 2007/08 Civic Year.

### (2) Taxi Association Liaison Panel – Wheelchair Accessibility Sub Group

DECISION: That Councillors M J Banthorpe and Mrs S A Howell be appointed to the Taxi Association Liaison Panel – Wheelchair Accessibility Sub Group for the 2007/08 Civic Year.

### (3) Drivers' Panel

DECISION: It was noted that Councillors M J Banthorpe, K E Bigden, J C Collar, P J Hughes, E R Lynch, M Lynch, Mrs J A Pell, D E A Rice and A F Shelton would be available to form the Drivers' Panel when required.

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm and closed at 8.00pm.

M J BANTHORPE  
(Chairman)