

Swindon Borough Council

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday, 26 September 2006

Committee Room 6, Civic Offices, Swindon (Anticipated meeting room)

At 5.00 p.m.

Conservative Councillors

Sinead Darker
Melanie Duff
Brian Ford
David Sammels
Philip Young

Labour Councillors

John Ballman
David Glaholm

Liberal Democrat Councillors

(none)

Independent Councillors

(none)

Committee Officer: Shaun Banks (Telephone 01793 463606)

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Swindon Borough Council, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon, SN1 2JH (Telephone 01793 463000)

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Minutes (Pages 1 - 2)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2006.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded that at the start of the meeting they should declare any known interests in any matter to be considered, and also during the meeting if it becomes apparent that they have an interest in the matters being discussed.

4. Private Hire Vehicle Door Signs (Pages 3 - 6)

Date of Despatch: 18 September 2006

Public Question Time - Swindon Borough Council is committed to increasing its accountability to the public and to promoting active citizenship. Up to 15 minutes will be allowed at the start of all Council meetings for questions to the Chair from members of the public about the work of the Committee (except for confidential matters and specific planning applications). Questions must be relevant, clear and concise. Because of time constraints Public Question Time is not an opportunity to make speeches or statements. Prior notice of a question to the Director of Law and Democratic Services is desirable - particularly if detailed background information is needed.

Access Arrangements – The Venue is wheelchair accessible and an infrared receiver hearing system is provided. If you would wish to attend the meeting but have any special requirement to enable you to do so please contact the Committee Clerk above, as soon as possible prior to the date of the meeting.

If you would like to receive any of the pages contained in this agenda in a larger print size please contact the Committee Officer whose name appears on the first page of this agenda.

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 2006

PRESENT:- Councillors Sinead Darker (Chair), John Ballman, Melanie Duff, Brian Ford (Vice-Chair) and Dale Heenan.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors David Glaholm and Philip Young.

13. Minutes

Resolved – That the Minutes of the meetings held on 28th July and 1st August 2006, be confirmed and signed.

14. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting. No declarations were made.

15. Public Question Time

No public questions were received during the meeting.

16. Exempt Items - Exclusion of Press and Public

That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in Item 6 of the Notice of the Meeting on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. (Minute 17 refers.)

17. Application for Private Hire Drivers Licence

The Sub-Committee considered (a) a report of the Group Director, Environment and Leisure setting out an application for a Private Hire drivers licence that officers were unable to determine under delegated powers, and (b) comments by the applicant in support of his appeal.

Resolved – That, given the exceptional circumstance set out in the appeal, the appeal be upheld and the driver named in the report be granted a Private Hire Drivers Licence.

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Private Hire Vehicle Door Signs

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee **Date: 26th**
September 2006

Author: **Group Director, Environment and Leisure**

Wards Affected: **All**

Purpose

- To agree the text of a door sign that all private hire vehicles must display to indicate that they are licensed.

Recommendation

The Sub-Committee is asked to: -

- Agree the text and the implementation date.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 To ensure, as far as possible, that the public are aware that a private hire vehicle must be pre-booked; and to reinforce to the travelling public that the vehicle they have booked is properly licensed.

2. Detail

- 2.1 At present private hire operators are permitted to display two door signs, one on each side of the vehicle, displaying the above information. This is not mandatory.
- 2.2 It is now proposed that operators display two signs, one on each side of the vehicle, with the following wording:

PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE

INSURANCE INVALID IF NOT PRE-BOOKED

- 2.3 Signs would be 35cm x 20cm. It is proposed that the wording be black, on a yellow background. It is felt this would ensure the signs can be clearly read by the travelling public in both real and artificial light. Signs would have a magnetic background enabling them to adhere to car doors.
- 2.4 Signs are available from a local printer at a cost of £2,820 for 2000 signs. Although initially the cost will be met from the taxi and private hire budget, officers will be submitting a further report to this sub-committee in due course requesting an increase in fees from 1 April 2007.
- 2.5 It is recommended that these signs be issued, initially, free of charge. However, should a sign be lost or misplaced, it is recommended that a charge of £20 per set of two be made.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Rod Collett on 01793 466212 or e-mail rcollett@swindon.gov.uk.

Private Hire Vehicle Door Signs

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee Date: 26th
September 2006

- 2.6 It is proposed that the recommendations contained in this report are effective on 1 November 2006.
- 2.7 Section 48 (2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 authorises Local Authorities to attach to licences such conditions as it may be considered necessary including conditions requiring or prohibiting the display of signs on or from the vehicle to which the licence relates.
- 2.8 Officers have concerns regarding possible misuse of signs should they be lost or stolen, although it is felt that there would be a greater risk of passengers unwittingly using an unlicensed vehicle if licensed vehicles did not carry the signage outlined in this report.

Alternative Options

- None

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. There are no procurement issues arising from this report.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

A Healthy and Caring Place; An Economically Prosperous Place; An Environmentally Friendly Place; A Safe Place.

Consultees

The Director of Finance (s.151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix "A" – Example of the recommended door sign.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Rod Collett on 01793 466212 or e-mail rcollett@swindon.gov.uk.

**PRIVATE HIRE
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IF NOT PRE-BOOKED**

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