

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE SUB COMMITTEE
9 SEPTEMBER 1998**

Present: Councillor Egan (Chairman), Councillors Beadsley, Blatchford
and Mrs Pile

Apology for Absence was received from Councillor Veakins

9. **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 3 June 1998 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10. **Review of Licensing Conditions (Item 2)**

The Sub Committee was asked to consider a report detailing possible changes to the current licensing conditions as a basis for consultation with the trade, in respect of the following matters:

Introduction of Private Hire Driver Licences

The Sub Committee discussed the idea of having a licence that enabled drivers to operate a Private Hire Vehicle only. The current licence enabled the holder to drive both a Hackney Carriage and a Private Hire Vehicle. To drive a Hackney Carriage, a detailed knowledge test of the local area was also required. This restricted the number of drivers applying for a licence within the Bracknell Forest Borough area, as some drivers only worked on a regional level and therefore no detailed knowledge of the local area was necessary. The trade had requested consideration of the introduction of a Private Hire Driver Licence in addition to the Dual Driver Licence.

Limitation on Age of Vehicle

The Sub Committee discussed the current age restriction on licensed vehicles. Saloon and estate cars had a five year age limit and purpose built taxis had a ten year restriction. The Sub Committee suggested that the age limit could be reviewed and more emphasis could be placed on the condition of the vehicle provided there remained adequate safeguards to protect the public.

Signing and Advertising on Vehicles

The possibility of the Operators name being placed on the taxi was discussed as means of ensuring greater public safety and as an aid to better regulation.

Conduct and Dress of Drivers

The need to address conduct of drivers was discussed. The possibility of minimum standards being introduced was put forward as was the need for better clarification of the drivers' 'right to refuse'.

Length of Licences

The Sub Committee discussed the possibility of introducing a three year licence. Currently Operator and Driver Licences were renewable on a yearly basis on 1 April. Consideration could also be given to varying the application dates to evenly spread the administrative workload on officers.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee agrees that the above form the basis of consultation with the trade prior to detailed consideration of proposals for change at the next meeting of the Sub Committee.

11. **Use of Spent Convictions (Item 3)**

The Sub Committee discussed the current procedures on the use of spent convictions, assessing drivers for licensing.

RESOLVED that the Sub Committee reaffirm the current procedure of using relevant spent convictions as part of the assessment in the licensing process.

12. **Management Plan (Item 1)**

The Sub Committee considered a report detailing a review of the present policy on the provision of service provided by the Borough Council and to look forward to where it would be hoped the level of service would be in five years time. The report detailed the Main Objectives and activities to meet those objectives.

RECOMMENDED that the Management Plan, as outlined in the report, be approved.

13. **Items for Information (Items 4 and 5)**

The Committee noted the following items which were submitted for information only:

Meeting with the Hackney Carriage Trade	(Item 4)
Enforcement Action Taken	(Item 5)

14. **Exclusion of Public & Press**

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, members of the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the consideration of Items 6 and 7 which involve the likely disclosure of exempt information under the following category of Schedule 12A of that Act:

(7) Information relating to business affairs of third party	(Item 6)
(12) Information relating to legal proceedings	(Item 7)

15. **Application for Dual Drivers Licence (Item 6)**

In a report containing exempt information the Sub Committee discussed an application for a dual drivers licence for Mr A.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Sub Committee agree to Mr A submitting a formal application for a drivers licence to be duly determined.
- (ii) should Mr A re-apply for an Operators Licence the application should be brought to the Sub Committee for consideration.
- iii) should Mr A be found contravening his licence conditions, that in applying the Committee's Enforcement Policy, full regard be given to Mr A's record and previously expressed concerns of the Committee.

16. **Item for Information (Item 7)**

The Sub Committee noted the following item containing exempt information which was submitted for information only:

Mr N J F

(Item 7)

The meeting commenced at 5.30 p.m.
and concluded at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN