

**DEVELOPMENT CONTROL AND LICENSING COMMITTEE HELD at
6.30 pm at COUNCIL OFFICES LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN on
13 NOVEMBER 2002**

Present:- Councillor R B Tyler – Chairman
Councillors E C Abrahams, P G F Lewis, Mrs J I Loughlin,
D M Miller and A R Thawley.

Officers in attendance:- J Dickson, Ms J Harrison, Mrs C Roberts,
R Secker, M Hardy and Ms A Turner.

DCL105 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W F Bowker,
Mrs C M Dean and R D Green.

DCL106 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Committee held on 31 July 2002
were received, confirmed and signed as a correct record.

DCL107 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100A4 of the Local Government Act
1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of
business on the grounds that the decisions involved the likely
disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 4 and 7 of
Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

DCL108 DETERMINATION OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Legal Officer informed the meeting that the report that was sent out to
Members had erroneously stated that the applicant has been referred to
Members under pre licensing condition 9 rather than pre licensing condition 3.
However in all other aspects the report was substantially the same.

The Committee considered an application for a private hire drivers licence
where the applicant did not meet the standard licensing conditions.

The Chairman explained to the applicant the procedures to be followed in
considering the application.

The Council's Licensing Officer explained the reasons why the application had
come before the Licensing Committee. The applicant was invited to question
the Licensing Officer and to comment on the accuracy of the Licensing
Officer's report.

The applicant was then invited to answer the observations of the Council's
licensing representative and give reasons in support of his application. The

licensing representative then asked questions of the applicant as did Members at the invitation of the Chairman.

The applicant made a final statement and confirmed that he had said everything he wanted to say and had nothing further to add. The applicant and the Licensing Officer then left the meeting and the Committee considered its decision. The applicant was later re-admitted and informed of the decision. He was advised of his right to appeal to the Magistrates Court within twenty-one days.

RESOLVED that

- 1 Having regard to the fact that passengers were not on board on the occasion of either of the incidents referred to and the applicants assurance that there would be no further incidents, a licence be granted to the applicant;
- 2 that Councillor R B Tyler be nominated to give evidence in Court on behalf of the Committee in the event of the applicant appealing against the decision of the Committee to the Magistrates Court.

DCL109

DETERMINATION OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Committee considered an application for a private hire drivers licence where the applicant did not meet the standard licensing conditions. The Chairman explained to the applicant the procedure to be followed in considering the application.

The Council's Licensing Officer explained the reasons why the application had come before the Licensing Committee. The applicant was invited to question the Licensing Officer and to comment on the accuracy of the Licensing Officer's report. The applicant then gave reasons in support of his application and answered questions from the licensing representative. Members then asked questions of the applicant.

The applicant made a final statement and confirmed that he had said everything he wanted to say and had nothing further to add. The applicant and the Licensing Officer then left the meeting and the Committee considered its decision. The applicant was later re-admitted and informed of the decision. He was advised of his right to appeal to the Magistrates Court within twenty-one days.

RESOLVED that

- 1 In view of the guidance issued by the Department of Transport and Home Office and the frequency and seriousness of the offences, no licence be issued in this case,
- 2 Councillor A R Thawley be nominated to give evidence in court on behalf of the Committee in the event of the applicant

appealing against the decision of the Committee to the Magistrates Court.

The public were then readmitted to the meeting.

DCL110 **HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

The Committee received a report of the Licensing Officer setting out proposals submitted by the Uttlesford Taxi Drivers Association for a change to the Hackney Carriage (Taxis) Table of Fares in respect of all hirings. The licensing representative informed the meeting that the rate for vehicles licensed to carry up to four passengers for up to one mile under the heading Rate 2 should read £3.30 not £3.10. A table of representative fares charged in other neighbouring areas was attached to the report. Members noted that the fares applied for were appeared to be reasonable in the light of those fares charged in neighbouring areas.

RESOLVED that an increase to the levels proposed in the report be implemented from 6 January 2003 subject to the Council not receiving any objections.

The meeting was then adjourned at 7.25pm.

The meeting reconvened at 8.00pm.

DCL111 **DRAFT BUDGETS 2003/04**

The Committee considered the report of the principal accountant on the Committee's initial revised estimates of direct costs and income for 2002/03 and estimates for 2003/04 prepared on the basis of existing approved levels of service. He drew attention to the indicative £50,000 savings target proposed for the Committee and explained what was included in the base budget for 2002/03. The draft figures were presented on the basis of projections, targets and priorities approved by the Council on 22 October 2002. The £50,000 savings target for this Committee related to potential savings on the Development Control Best Value Review

RESOLVED that the Committee notes that its target has been matched.

It was further RECOMMENDED

- 1 That the makes no changes with regard to the draft net direct cost budgets and the matters contained in para 13 (a)-(c), and
- 2 Officers be directed to prepare service plans for 2003/04 and full budgets, for consideration at the next cycle of committee meetings.

The meeting ended at 8.32 pm. Page 3