

However, the Stansted Airport development would substantially increase the volume of business and it was considered that the time was now right to extend the licensing system to private hire vehicles and drivers. The situation at the Airport would need to be discussed with East Hertfordshire District Council and Stansted Airport Limited.

At the present time there were no designated Hackney Carriage ranks within this District. The provision of ranks would improve the service to the public and could also alleviate the problem of some taxis parking in public car parks awaiting radio call outs.

Of particular concern was the requirement for the Council to ensure that applicants for licensed drivers were "fit and proper" persons to hold a licence. There was no satisfactory way of checking non-disclosure of criminal convictions.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 An approach be made to the Local Member of Parliament and through the Association of District Councils for Police assistance in the vetting of applicants for licensed drivers of Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicles.
- 2 At present no change be made to the fees charged by the Council in connection with the issue of licences. Future increases in fees should be based on the principle of recovering the Council's administrative costs.
- 3 That the provision of taxi ranks in the four major urban areas and at Stansted Airport be further investigated by the Officers and a report submitted to a future meeting and
- 4 the system of licensing be extended to cover private hire vehicles and private hire drivers.

### 383 ITEMS REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

(i) Vehicle replacement - tenders for refuse collection vehicles

At its meeting on 6 December 1988 the Environmental Health Committee had been advised that in order to comply with the law relating to permitted loading of vehicles two 22 tonne vehicles equipped with lift axle capable of carrying a 10 tonne load had been purchased at a total cost of £113,150 which exceeded the budget estimate by £8,150. It was further proposed to fit lift axles to the remaining 2 vehicles to increase their loaded gross weight to 19½ tonnes at a total cost of £8,800.

Approval was therefore sought to waive Standing Orders with regard to contracts in respect of the purchase of two 22 tonne vehicles equipped with lift axles and for a supplementary estimate of £8,800 to fit 2 existing refuse collection vehicles with lift axles.

RECOMMENDED that

- 1 standing orders relating to contracts be waived and

INITIALS

2 a supplementary financial year

### 384 CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1989/90

Further to Minute 295 t Programme for 1989/90 -

RECOMMENDED that now submitted, be a

### 385 COMMITTEE BUDGET 1989/90

The Committee received i year and

RESOLVED that the be approved.

### 386 BUDGET AND RATE PROSPECTS

The Committee gave consid for the coming year whi Whilst 1989/90 was the f terms was above the 1974, be lower. The general expenditure per head to increase only by the ra population had been absor

The main subjective of h substantive increases we charges. Members were a and how these were refle

Net expenditure in 1989/ grant for the year red £2,794,000, equivalent to of 9.3p or 51%. It mitigated by drawing £168 for the fact there was a year. The effect of this 26p. It was contended t balance and there was c drawn upon to lessen the to use was a subjective in March. However, a D probable for the coming likely increases and Co seconded that :-

An Member/Officer Workin structure and management changes in the Council's need for a corporate plan