

Public Protection Committee



Date	26 March 2008
Venue	Reception Room, Town Hall
Committee members	David Eaves (Chairman) Dawn Prestwich (Vice-Chairman) Christine Akeroyd, Keith Beckett, Elizabeth Clarkson, John Davies, Ken Hopwood, Angela Jacques, Barbara Pagett
Other Councillors	None
Officers	Chris Hambly, Stuart Handley, Clare Holmes, Christopher Kitchin, Peter Welsh
Others	Karen Galloway (LCC), Representatives from the taxi/private hire trade

1. Declarations of interest

Members were reminded that any personal/prejudicial interests should be declared as required by the Council's Code of Conduct adopted in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000.

2. Confirmation of minutes

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the Public Protection Committee meeting held on 13 February 2008 as a correct record for signature by the chairman.

3. Substitute members

There were no substitute members.

4. Street Trader

Stuart Handley (Commercial and Licensing Manager) presented a report on Street Trading.

Officers of the Consumer Wellbeing and Protection Unit had received a request from Karen Galloway, Chief Traffic & Development Engineer for Lancashire County Council Highway Authority, to prohibit Street Trading on St Georges Park, Kirkham. The request being as a result of road safety concerns regarded a street trader who operated on the site as a mobile catering unit, known as 'Mother Hubbard'.

Mrs Galloway informed the committee that St Georges Park was now an adopted public highway and that Lancashire County Council prohibited mobile units to trade on public highways.

Mrs Galloway continued to brief the committee and highlighted that the congestion problems was not entirely caused by Mother Hubbard's and that other local businesses contributed to this problem.

Mr Beesley (Mother Hubbard's Owner) addressed the committee and put forward his case to continue operating.

Following a long and detailed discussion it was RESOLVED to take no further action and that Lancashire County Council be requested to introduce parking restrictions between the two traffic islands situated on the by-pass and St Georges Park.

5. 1. Request for Dispensation from Displaying Private Hire Vehicle Signage

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a request from a licensed Private Hire Operator that sought dispensation from displaying the required private hire vehicle signage. The request was submitted by Mr D. Parkin of 1st Class Limousine Services.

Following discussion the committee RESOLVED to approve the dispensation request from Mr Parkin subject to the private hire vehicle licence plates being displayed in the boot of vehicles that have been granted dispensation from displaying the required private hire vehicle signage.

6. Advertising on Hackney Carriages

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) presented a report on advertising on Hackney Carriage vehicles. At the Public Protection Committee meeting held on the 13th February 2008, members deferred a request from the Fylde Licensed Hackney Drivers Association relating to advertising on Hackney Carriages, requesting that a mock up vehicle be presented in the requested style prior to making a decision.

Mr Hambly informed the Committee that information had been received from the Fylde Licensed Hackney Drivers Association reporting that the cost of preparing such a mock up was £237 + VAT. It was therefore requested by the Association that the Committee consider the application by viewing computer imagery, superimposed onto an existing licensed hackney carriage.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED:-

1. To approve the request for advertising on hackney carriage vehicles
2. That any advertising concerning matters sexual, religious, political, or the sale/promotion of alcohol and tobacco be prohibited and that any advertising to be displayed on vehicles should be in line with the principles of the General Rules laid down by the British Code of Advertising, Sales Promotion and Direct Marketing issued by the Committee of Advertising Practice.
3. To approve the Taxi and Private Hire Policy in relation with advertising on Hackney Carriages and that the necessary amendments to the Licensing Policy be made accordingly.

7. Foreign Applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licences

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) presented the report which requested the Committee to give consideration to updating Appendix D of the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy to include a requirement that any applicant who had been resident outside the UK be

required to obtain a Certificate of Conduct from the Embassy of the applicants country of origin or place of recent residence.

Following consideration it was RESOLVED to update the policy.

8. Hackney Carriage Stand - Garden St, St Annes

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that a complaint had been received by the Highways Authority in relation to the Hackney Carriage Stand located on Garden St, St Annes. The complaint related to the stand obstructing the dropped kerb that facilitated pedestrian access.

Mr Hambly informed the committee that the length of the stand could be reduced, without affecting the number of hackney carriages that may ply for hire on the stand.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED:-

1. To amend the taxi rank on Garden Street as requested by the Highways Authority.
2. That the portfolio holder for community and social wellbeing be requested to approve the variation of the hackney carriage rank on Garden Street by way of an individual cabinet member decision.
3. That subject to the above, the executive manager for consumer wellbeing and protection in consultation with the portfolio holder and the chairman of the public protection committee be given delegated authority to consider any representations received following the advertisement of the above proposal.

9. Private Hire Driver Application - DLM

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a Private Hire driver application from Mr DLM. The application was referred to the committee because of previous convictions. (A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee).

Mr DLM addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

The committee discussed the application and RESOLVED that the application in respect of DLM be deferred until the next meeting of the committee in order to obtain clarification on the offences committed by the applicant.

10. Hackney Carriage Driver Application - SN

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of an application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence. The application was referred to the committee because of previous convictions. (A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee).

Mr SN addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED to approve the application subject to Mr SN being officially warned about his future conduct whilst driving a licensed vehicle.

11. Hackney Carriage Driver Application - CM

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of an application for Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence. The application was referred to the committee because of previous convictions. (A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee).

Mr CM addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

RESOLVED: That the application in respect of CM be refused as the Sub-Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

12. Private Hire Driver Application - MS

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported receipt of a Private Hire driver application from Mr MS. The application was referred to the committee because of previous convictions. (A copy of the report had previously been circulated to each member of the committee).

Mr MS addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED to approve the application subject to Mr MS being officially warned about his future conduct whilst driving a licensed vehicle.

13. Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence - BEP

Chris Hambly (Licensing Officer) reported that Mr BEP, a current driver benefiting from a hackney carriage drivers licence had been convicted of number of motoring offences.

Mr BEP addressed the committee in support of his application and answered questions from committee members.

Following consideration the committee RESOLVED to revoke the licence of Mr BEP.

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