

CITY OF NOTTINGHAM

LICENSING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **6 DECEMBER 2004** at the

Council House from 10.04 am to 11.30 am

Councillor Cresswell (Chair)
Councillor Grocock (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Clarke-Smith
Councillor Ibrahim
Councillor James
Councillor G Khan
Councillor Packer
Councillor Smith
Councillor Stapleton
Councillor Wilson

indicates present at meeting

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Grocock and Stapleton.

45 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 4 November 2004, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

46 INTRODUCTION OF ALCOHOL DESIGNATION ORDER IN NOTTINGHAM CITY CENTRE

The Committee received for information a report of the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Street Services considered at a meeting of City Council on 22 November 2004, outlining the procedure through which the Council was to replace its existing City Centre Alcohol Bye-Laws, which were scheduled to lapse in September 2006, with a City Centre Alcohol Designation Order. Mr T Coulson, Service Manager (Food and Licensing), City Development Department, presented the report, and provided additional information in respect of the consultation exercise and proposed extension to the Designated Area under the revised Order.

During discussion of this item, members raised the following issues:-

- the boundary of the Designated Area needed elaborating to ensure both sides of streets in 'borderline' areas, such as Mansfield Road, were included;

- street drinking was an issue in areas outside the proposed Designated Area, such as at Hyson Green and at Robin Hood Chase.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that the report be noted;**
- (2) **that members' comments be submitted as part of the consultation exercise on the proposed Alcohol Designation Order.**

47 REQUEST TO VARY ASPECTS OF THE APPLICATION PROCEDURE FOR INITIAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCES

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of City Development, copies of which had been circulated, seeking approval to allow certain exemptions from current licensing requirements for potential taxi drivers attending a training course offered by People's College, Nottingham. Mr J Mortell, Team Leader (Taxi Licensing) presented the report, and provided additional information regarding the proposals outlined in the report.

Members observed that the training course had been operating since September 2004, and commented that a report informing them of the establishment of the course prior to its inception would have been welcome.

RESOLVED

- (1) **that applicants attending the taxi driving course offered by People's College, Nottingham, be exempted from undertaking the Topography and Driving Assessment components of current licensing requirements when applying for an initial grant of a combined drivers licence;**
- (2) **that approval be given for the application process to be amended to allow applicants to undertake a Criminal Record Bureau conviction check at the beginning of the course, to allow sufficient time for the search results to be processed and returned within the course's duration of thirteen weeks.**

48 SURVEY OF UNMET DEMAND

Further to minute 32 dated 20 September 2004, consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of City Development, copies of which had been circulated, advising members that the survey of unmet demand was to be undertaken shortly by consultants Halcrow Fox. Mr J Mortell, Team Leader (Taxi Licensing) presented the report, and provided additional information regarding the arrangements outlined in the report.

It was explained that conducting the survey using independent, external consultants of good standing was appropriate and in keeping with Best Value principles.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

49 ADJUSTMENT TO TIME PERIOD FOR ACCEPTANCE OF CRIMINAL RECORD BUREAU (CRB) DISCLOSURES FOR INITIAL APPLICANTS FOR A COMBINED DRIVERS LICENCE

Consideration was given to a report of the Corporate Director of City Development, copies of which had been circulated, requesting a variation of the time limit on the acceptance of CRB disclosures from one month to three months. Mr J Mortell, Team Leader (Taxi Licensing) presented the report, and provided additional information regarding the arrangements outlined in the report.

It was explained that the variation, if approved, was to apply to a small number of initial applicants, enabling all applicants who had already obtained disclosures to commence employment with the minimum of delay.

RESOLVED that the time limit for accepting CRB disclosures for initial applicants for a combined drivers' licence from the date of issue of the disclosure be extended from one month to three months.