

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the
MISCELLANEOUS LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
held in Committee Room Two, Council Offices, Woodgreen, Witney, Oxon
at 10.00am on 12 September 2017

PRESENT

Councillors: N A MacRae MBE (Chairman). S J Good (Vice-Chairman), M Brennan
and J C Cooper

Also in Attendance: Mr A H K Postan

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 29 August 2017 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS

There were no apologies for absence or temporary appointments.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest from Members or Officers relating to matters to be considered at the meeting.

32. PARTICIPATION OF THE PUBLIC

No submissions were received from the public in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure.

33. CONSULTATION REGARDING THE DRAFT HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY

The Sub-Committee received and considered the report of the Group Manager of Environmental and Regulatory Services seeking authority to carry out a full consultation with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire trade on the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Members noted that, following the consultation, a further report would be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration of adoption of the new Policy for implementation in April 2018.

The Sub-Committee noted that Oxford City Council had recently announced plans to install electric vehicle charging points for taxis and to phase out older, high-emitting cabs from the city in effort to reduce air pollution. The proposals, planned to be introduced by the end of 2018, would require all newly-licenced hackney carriages to be ultra-low emission vehicles.

Mr Good advised that an informal working group had been established by the Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to explore the possibility of installing electric vehicle charging points in Council owned car parks. Together with Mr Postan and Mr Saul and with assistance from Officers, he had

been assessing the cost of procurement and, on hearing of the City Council's initiative, considered that it would be beneficial to include a similar suggestion as part of the consultation process.

Mr MacRae noted that there were areas within Chipping Norton and Witney that did not meet national air quality standards and such an initiative could help to address this situation and help to improve air within the District. Accordingly, he suggested that Officers be requested to give consideration to the viability of introducing similar arrangements in West Oxfordshire and report back further at the end of the consultation period.

Mr Postan indicated that both technology and public perception were changing rapidly and by promoting such an initiative the Council would raise the profile and increase interest in this technology as well as promoting economic activity within the District.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the draft Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy be approved for public consultation.
- (b) That, following consultation, a further report be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration of approval in March 2018
- (c) That Officers be requested to give consideration to the viability of introducing electric vehicle charging points for taxis in West Oxfordshire and the introduction of ultra-low emission vehicles as Hackney Carriages.

The meeting closed at 10:05am

CHAIRMAN