

# **WOKINGHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**A MEETING OF THE  
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE  
WILL BE HELD AT THESE OFFICES**

**ON**

**TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2008**

**AT**

**7.00PM**

**YOU ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND**

**MEETING OF THE  
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE**

**ON**

**TUESDAY 10 JUNE 2008**

**AT**

**7.00PM**

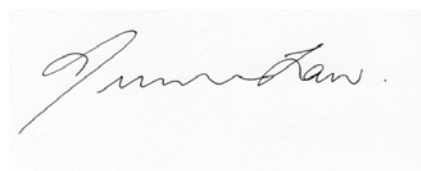
**AGENDA**

**Civic Offices  
Shute End  
Wokingham  
Berkshire**

**Susan Law  
Chief Executive**

**To: The Chairman and Members of the Licensing and Appeals Committee**

A Meeting of the **LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE** will be held at the Civic Offices, Shute End, Wokingham on **Tuesday 10 June 2008 AT 7.00pm**



Susan Law  
Chief Executive  
22 May 2008

**Members:-** Barrie Patman, (Chairman),  
Pauline Helliar-Symons, (Vice-Chairman), Andrew Bradley, Chris Bowring,  
Gerald A Cockroft, Kay Gilder, Mike Gore, Kirsten Miller, Mr D Morgan, Patti Sherratt,  
Malcolm Storry, Claire Stretton, Pam Stubbs and Bob Wyatt

ITEM NO.	WARD	SUBJECT	PAGE NO.
55.00	None Specific	<b>MINUTES</b> To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 2008	1
56.00	None Specific	<b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive any apologies for absence	
57.00		<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> To receive any declarations of interest	
58.00		<b>PUBLIC QUESTION TIME</b> To answer any public questions	

The Council welcomes questions from members of the

public about the work of this Committee

Subject to meeting certain timescales, questions can relate to general issues concerned with the work of the Committee or an item which is on the Agenda for this meeting. For full details of the procedure for submitting questions please contact Democratic Services on the numbers listed below or go to [www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/publicquestions)

Explanatory leaflets are also available in the Civic Offices and Libraries.

**59.00**

**MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

To answer any member questions

**60.00**

None Specific

**TOURISM AND EMPLOYMENT UPDATE**

**3**

Consideration of a report updating the Committee on tourism and employment in relation to licensing.

**61.00**

**ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN DECIDES ARE URGENT**

A Supplementary Agenda will be issued by the Chief Executive if there are any other items to consider under this heading

**CONTACT OFFICERS**

**Allan Tiplady**      **Senior Democratic Services Officer**      **Tel 0118 974 6319**

**Sue Balbi**      **Team Support Officer**      **Tel 0118 974 6054**

**Janet Grainge**      **Team Support Officer**      **Tel 0118 974 6059**

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**Email**      [democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@wokingham.gov.uk)

This is an agenda for a Meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee

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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE  
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 MARCH 2008 FROM 6.30PM TO 7.10PM**

*Present:- Pauline Helliar-Symons (Chairman), Gerald A Cockroft, Mrs K Gilder, Kirsten Miller, and Bob Wyatt*

*Also present:- Steve Richardson, Public Protection Manager, Julia O'Brien, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Liz Sykes, Legal Assistant, Neil Allen, Senior Lawyer, Allan Tiplady, Senior Democratic Services Officer.*

**PART I**

**44. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**45. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted from Andrew Bradley, Chris Bowring, Sam Rahmouni, Malcolm Storry and Pam Stubbs

**46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**47. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no public questions.

**48. MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

There were no Member questions.

**49. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION**

The Committee considered a report on the draft policy and consultation responses.

In discussing the matter the following points were noted:

- The lack of submissions was a good reflection on the good relationship Council staff had with drivers.
- Some minor wording and format changes had been made by Legal Services to the original draft but nothing had changed the substance or intent of the draft policy.
- The comments made by the Council's Access Officer regarding alternative training in assisting disabled and vulnerable people were accepted so long as those trainers meet required standards.

**RESOLVED:- That:**

1) The Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy as attached to the report be approved subject to the following amendments:

- a) Existing paragraph 1.2.9 be replaced by: “1.2.9 Assistance of Disabled Persons Training: All applicants must be able to show that they have undergone training in the assistance of disabled persons, to a standard acceptable to Wokingham Borough Council. Current examples of acceptable standards are the Passenger Assistance Training Scheme (PATs) or the Council's in-house Disability Awareness Training.”
- b) Existing paragraph 1.2.10 be deleted and paragraph 1.2.11 renumbered as 1.2.10
- c) Insert a new paragraph 2.5.3: “No Hackney Carriage vehicle licence will be granted for a vehicle that exceeds 8 years old, from the date of first registration, unless the vehicle complies with the requirements of 2.9 of this policy.”
- d) Existing paragraph 2.5.3 be renumbered to 2.5.4 and amended to read: “Please note that the age restrictions detailed in paragraphs 2.5.1 to 2.5.3 above.....”
- e) Paragraph 1.2.1 (ii) be amended to read: “a passport with a valid UK visa, which allows the holder to work as a Private Hire or Hackney Carriage driver.....”
- f) Paragraph 3.3.1 (ii) to read: “ a passport with a valid UK visa, which allows the holder to work as a Private Hire operator.....”

2) Officers be authorised to make the necessary presentation and layout amendments to the Private Hire School and Community Services Licensing Policy, in order to make it consistent with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

## **50. TAXI LICENCE FEES**

The Committee considered a report on the responses to the consultation on the proposed taxi licence fees. In discussing the matter the following points were made:

- It would be more prudent to review the fees every two years rather than annually because the cost of the review is very significant in relation to the additional revenue generated.

### **RESOLVED: That:**

1) The Taxi Licence Fees as attached to the report be approved, with effect from 1 April 2008.

2) The review period for Taxi Licence Fees be amended to be every two years with the next review to be 1 April 2010.

*These are the Minutes of a meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee*

*If you need help in understanding this document or if you would like a copy of it in large print please contact one of our Team Support Officers.*

**TITLE** Tourism and Employment Update

**FOR CONSIDERATION BY** Licensing and Appeals Committee on 10 June 2008

**WARD** None Specific

**REPORT PREPARED BY** Steve Richardson, Public Protection Manager

**SUMMARY**

This report is required by the Guidance issued under the Licensing Act 2003 and its need was acknowledged in the adopted Licensing Policy.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is recommended to note the report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (of the Recommendation)****Revenue/Capital**

	How much will it Cost / Save	Is there sufficient budget (or grant funding) available?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes

**Other relevant financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision**

None

*Please note: The Recommendation must request the Supplementary Estimate required in this year, noting the ongoing commitment in future years.*

**Impact on Equality**

Neutral impact

**Impact on Sustainability**

Generally neutral

**Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

Not Applicable

**List of Background Papers**

Wokingham Borough Council Licensing Policy

<b>Held by</b> Steve Richardson	<b>Service</b> Place and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Telephone No</b> 0118 974 6378	<b>Email</b> steve.richardson@wokingham.gov.uk
<b>Date</b> 24 April 2008	<b>Version No.</b> One

**NB All reports seek to identify environmental, community safety, customer care and equal opportunities implications. Consultation with residents and organisations which has or is about to take place, will also be reported.**

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

There is a requirement under the statutory guidance for arrangements to be made for the Licensing Committee to receive reports on the needs of the local tourist economy and to keep the Committee apprised of the employment situation in the area. A statement undertaking to fulfil this requirement was included in the Council's Licensing Policy when it was adopted.

Wokingham District does not have a substantial tourist economy. Occasional visitors do come to the District, but primarily to visit attractions in nearby areas, often combined with business trips. Licensing decisions would have little or no effect on the level of tourist activity.

The District is characterised by low unemployment, currently this runs at 0.6%, which is less than the national average. In essence everyone who is available for work has the opportunity to get a job. The leisure industry, and hence licensed premises, makes a major contribution to the local employment situation, and the main issue for licensees is the difficulty recruiting staff.

Overall the licensing process is not affected by, nor does it affect, either the position with tourists, or employment.