

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of a meeting held on Thursday, 24th March, 2011
at 7.00 pm at The Guildhall, Westgate, Canterbury**

Present: Councillor H Taylor (Chairman)
Councillor Bissett
Councillor Dixey
Councillor Reuby
Councillor Steed
Councillor Vye
Councillor Windsor
Councillor M Flaherty (In place of Councillor R Flaherty)

In attendance -

Officers: Pauline Goldsack - Senior Solicitor
Jemma Richards - Democratic Services Officer
Roger Vick - Commercial Health Manager

(*present for part of the meeting)

665 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors R Flaherty and Sharp.

In the Chairmans absence, Councillor H Taylor took the Chair for the meeting.

666 SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Councillor M Flaherty attended the meeting as a substitute for Councillor R Flaherty.

667 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations at the meeting.

668 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS

The Chairman reported that there was no public participation at the meeting.

669 AUDIO RECORDING

RESOLVED – That meetings of the General Purposes Committee be recorded for publication on the Council's website.

670 MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 and 23 December 2011 were agreed as a true record.

671 **ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

There were no actions arising.

672 **TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING POLICY UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services which set out the current policy. The report was part of the ongoing development of policy and conditions.

The Commercial Health Manager advised that the last sentence of No.13 of the Policy would be amended to read: "Should an applicant wish to pursue an application when it has been refused under such circumstances, they can either request the appeal be considered by the Licensing Sub-Committee, or to the Magistrates Court".

The Committee Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- The conditions were common sense and comprehensive. Had the policy been compared with other neighbouring authorities?
- Had representatives of the taxi trade been consulted?
- Could all of the conditions set out in the policy be appealed against?

The Commercial Health Manager responded to some of the issues raised, and made points including the following:

- Options were being considered with regard to standardising policies across all East Kent authorities.
- The Chairman of the Canterbury District Taxi Association had been consulted on the policy and approved it.
- All of the conditions in the policy could be appealed against.

A Committee Member raised a concern about a restriction which meant that taxi drivers picking up disabled passengers from outside of the city centre were not able to drop the passenger off outside certain areas within the city centre.

The Commercial Health Manager explained that this regulation was to do with pedestrianisation, and that he had approached the issue with Kent Highways. He agreed to follow up further with Kent Highways.

RESOLVED – That the Commercial Health Manager contact Kent Highways to express the concerns relating to pedestrianisation of the High Street, and the implications for disabled taxi passengers.

RECOMMENDED (to the **Executive**) that:-

- (1) the amendments to the taxi and private hire licensing policy and conditions listed at Appendix A of the report be adopted.

- (2) that the Commercial Health Manager be delegated the Authority to revise the medical questionnaire and to in certain circumstances direct an applicant, or existing driver to undertake a medical at a specific medical practice.

673 **SEX ENTERTAINMENT VENUES POLICY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services which set out the Sex Entertainment Policy. In accordance with Council approval (Minute 465, 2010/11), the policy had been out for public consultation from 26 January until 13 March 2011, and no representations had been received.

The Commercial Health Manager outlined some changes to the policy, including the following:

- The addition to 2.6 of the wording “(for definition, see 7.1 and 7.2)”.
- The addition to 14.11 of the wording: “Access should comply with all requirements within the Disability Discrimination agenda.
- The addition of the word “printed” prior to local newspaper in 16.8, and also the words “in the vicinity of the application site” after local authority area.
- The amendment of Section 27 to “Schedule 3, Paragraph 27” in 23.1.
- The addition of the words “by an applicant” after the word “appeal” in 23.4.

The Committee Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- Who would decide on the maximum number of Sex Entertainment Venues?

The Commercial Health Manager provided clarification on the issues raised, and made points including the following:

- The Licensing Sub-Committee would have the authority to decide what the limit should be regarding numbers of Sex Entertainment Venues.

A Member also raised concerns about 14.5, and the Solicitor agreed to seek clarification on the issues involved in terms of the guidance, and report back to the member with the reworded condition.

RECOMMENDED (to the **Executive**) that:-

- (1) the amendments to the Taxi and Private Hire Licensing Policy and Conditions as listed at Appendix A of the report be adopted.
- (2) That the Commercial Health Manager be delegated the Authority to revise the medical questionnaire and to in certain circumstances direct an applicant, or existing driver to undertake a medical at a specific medical practise.

674 **STREET TRADING CONDITIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Housing, Community Safety and Environmental Services which set out changes to the Street Trading Licence conditions to reflect changing circumstances.

Committee Members commented on various issues and made points including the following:

- Had the Street Traders been notified of the amendments to the policy?
- There was a typographical error in the document.

The Commercial Health Manager provided clarification on the issues raised, and made points including the following:

- Letters had been sent to Street Traders.
- The typographical errors in the document would be amended.

RESOLVED – That the amended conditions set out at Appendix A of the report be approved to come into force on 1 April 2011.

675 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Thursday 23 June 2011 in the Guildhall (subject to approval at the annual meeting of the Council).

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.30 pm