

## **A MEETING OF THE LICENSING BOARD**

**WAS HELD ON 6 JUNE 2012**

The Mayor (Councillor Dickson) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (P), Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Beavis (Chairman) (P), Carter CK (P), Mrs Cully (P), Ms Diffey (P), Hazel (P), Jacobs (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Scard and Mrs Wright (P).

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Hook, had been nominated to replace Councillor Scard for this meeting.

### **7. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received from the Mayor and Councillor Scard.

### **8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Ms Ballard declared a personal interest in agenda item 6.

### **9. MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board held on 3 April 2012 and 16 May 2012 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

### **10. DEPUTATIONS**

There were none.

### **11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

There were none.

## **PART II**

### **12. GOSPORT HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE CONDITIONS REVISED JULY 2008 AMENDMENT TO TAXIMETERS.**

Consideration was given to a report of the Community and Customer Services Manager advising the Board of a request to change Gosport Borough Councils Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Conditions to permit taximeters to be installed in Private Hire Vehicles.

In answer to a Member's question, Mr Cox advised the Board that, if permitted the taximeter would be subject to the same tariffs and checks that meters in Hackney Carriages underwent.

The Board were advised that Mr Cox had been the first operator to request the installation of a taximeter in a Private Hire Vehicle.

Mr Cox advised the Board that he was requesting permission for the installation of the taximeter to allow him to establish both the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage sides of his business. He advised the Board of the different procedures in charging for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage journeys.

Mr Cox presented and offered the Board the option to view the proposed taximeter for his Private Hire Vehicles, he advised that the entire fleet of Hardway cars was 7 or 8 seaters and that the vehicles were wheelchair friendly.

The Board were advised that the busiest time for his vehicles was Friday and Saturday nights, with groups of customers travelling to Portsmouth. Airport journeys were also a significant part of his trade.

Mr Cox advised the Board that the fares from a tariff card and a meter were the same and that they were the maximum a driver could charge. He advised the Board that the introduction of a taximeter would be fairer and more upfront for customers.

The Board were advised that as the owner operator, Mr Cox was able to collect and collate data from each vehicle every week, including journeys undertaken and speed travelled. Mr Cox advised the Board that the introduction of taximeters would enable him to introduce the ability to pay by credit/debit card in his vehicles.

Mr Cox advised the Board that he operated the largest independent fleet in the Borough and that his company did not charge for extras such as luggage or additional passengers. The Board were advised that it was this, and the availability of 7 and 8 seater, wheelchair friendly vehicles that attracted customers to use Hardway Cars.

The Board agreed to allow taximeters to be installed in Private Hire Vehicles.

RESOLVED: That;

- a) the amendment of conditions applied by this Council to Private Hire Vehicles be approved; and
- b) condition 35 relating to Private Hire Vehicles that states "There shall not be installed in such vehicles a taximeter " be replaced with conditions allowing a taximeter to be installed in a Private Hire Vehicle.

### **13. REVISED STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ISSUED UNDER THE GAMBLING ACT 2005**

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Customer and Community Services Manager requesting that consideration be given to the draft revised Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005, which the Council is required to review and publish every three years, for use in connection with

applications/reviews under the Gambling Act 2005 (“Statement of Principles”).

The Board were advised that the presentation of the draft statement to the Board was the first stage of the process, should the Board approve the draft, it would then be subject to public consultation.

The Board were advised that the document jointly covered Fareham and Gosport Borough Council’s in line with the shared Environmental Health Service.

In answer to a Member’s question the criteria for determining the level of risk in respect of premises was clarified.

Members were also advised that each Local Authority had passed a resolution detailing their stance on Casinos within their respective Boroughs.

A Member also requested further clarification as to categories of Club Gaming machines. The Senior Licensing Officer advised that these were the levels of stakes and payouts that could be played and awarded. The Board were advised that further details of these could be forwarded to Members following the meeting.

In answer to a Member’s question, the Board were advised that there was no power for local authorities to address issues of online gambling as this was regulated centrally by the Gambling Commission.

Members were advised that copies of the draft statement of principles would be placed in public libraries, with a notice on how to comment and would be available to view and comment on online. The statement would also be sent to the Gambling Commission, Hampshire Constabulary, representatives of the trade and other statutory consultees.

The Board were advised that following the consultation period, the feedback would be presented to the Board and then to full Council for approval.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) The draft revised Statement of Principles for the purposes of statutory consultation be approved;
- 2) The Licensing Board shall further consider any substantive amendments to the draft revised Statement of Principles arising from the statutory consultation exercise; and
- 3) In the event there are no substantive amendments to the draft revised Statement of Principles arising from the statutory consultation exercise it is recommended that Full Council adopt the draft revised Statement of Principles.

#### **14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chairman advised the Board that training on licensing matters would be available to all Members of the Council on 31<sup>st</sup> July at 5pm. The Board were advised that, in the meantime, should they have any specific training needs surrounding licensing matters that they should contact the Senior Licensing Officer.

The meeting ended at 6.38 p.m.

CHAIRMAN