

**AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE POLICY AND ORGANISATION
BOARD**

WAS HELD ON 29 MARCH 2007

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Cully) (ex-officio); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (P); Councillors Burgess (P), Carter (P), Chegwyn (P), Gill, Hook (P), Langdon (P), Smith (P), Taylor (P) and Wright (P) .

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, Councillor Ms Ballard had been nominated to attend this meeting in place of Councillor Gill.

57. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were submitted on behalf of the Mayor and Councillor Gill.

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

59. DEPUTATIONS

There were no deputations.

60. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART I

**61. CONSIDERATION OF AN OBJECTION TO THE INCREASE IN HACKNEY
CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE FEES**

By reason of special circumstance, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1985.

The special circumstance was created by the requirement for the Board to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Council on 4 April 2007 in order that the proposed fee increases, whether amended or not, may be implemented and a revised implementation date agreed by Council.

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix 'A'), which brought to the attention of the Board an objection to the proposed increase in fees for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licences.

The report sought either confirmation of these increases or amendment of the proposed fees as a result of further consideration by the Council. The proposed fee increase, whether amended or not, could not be implemented until such time as the matter was considered and a revised implementation date agreed by Council.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) Council be requested to consider the objections of Mr S Pritchard and Mr M Poulter to the proposed increase in Hackney Carriage and Private Hire fees and uphold the revised fees or amend them as necessary; and
- b) Council be requested to consider an implementation date for the fees detailed in a) above.

62. EXPLOSION MUSEUM - REVISED OPERATIONS

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book as Appendix 'B'), which sought the Board's approval for the proposed revised operational arrangements for the Explosion Museum, in order to remain within the budget available for the 2007/08 financial year.

Members were advised that negotiations were continuing with Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA) regarding their assistance in running some aspects of the Museum with volunteer resources and a number of meetings had taken place. Officers had provided the heads of terms for an agreement with GVA and a response was awaited. Indications were that GVA were enthusiastic about being involved and, should their response to the proposed heads of terms be positive, negotiations would continue. Negotiations were also taking place with Hampshire County Council regarding the provision of some curatorial services.

Members were advised that the negotiations with GVA and potential developers at Priddy's Hard would take a few months and the proposals in the report would provide breathing space to avoid closing the Museum on a temporary basis.

Officers advised that the Museum collection could be rationalised and use made of the resultant space to generate additional income.

Some Members expressed the view that the Museum would not be able to operate, as described in the report, within the approved budget for 2007/08 and that greater subsidy would be required.

The Board resolved to approve the recommendations contained in the report. Two Members requested, under Standing Order 6.10 (Minority Order), that the matter be referred to full Council.

RECOMMENDED: That:

- a) the proposed operational arrangements as described in Section 3 of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager's report be approved; and

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- b) the Big Lottery be written to, advising them of the proposed operational arrangements.

Note: As a result of the above Minority Order, the exempt report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager entitled “Explosion Museum – Staffing Implications” was not considered by the Board.

PART II

63. CORPORATE DEBT POLICY

Consideration was given to a report of the Financial Services Manager requesting approval of the Corporate Debt Policy.

RESOLVED: That the Corporate Debt Policy outlined in the Financial Services Manager’s report be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 p.m. and concluded at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN