

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL
GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: Monday 3 June 2013

Time: 18.00 p.m.

Place: Council Chamber, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Councillors D Kissane, C Latif (Vice Chair), M Gardner,
L Harrington, C Hurst, L Lloyd CC, L Martin-Haugh, M Notley,
G Snell and B Underwood.

Start/End Time: Start Time: 18.00 p.m.
End Time: 18.35 p.m.

1. TO NOTE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was moved, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor C Latif be appointed Vice Chair of the General Purposes Committee for the Municipal year 2013/14.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillors J Hollywell and V Warwick.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were advised that 3.1 of the Terms of Reference should refer to the Head of Leisure, Environmental Health & Children Service as the post of Head of Environmental Health and Licensing no longer existed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

4. MINUTES - 15 APRIL 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes meeting held on 15 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of Councillor L Harrington and C Latif as attendees at the meeting.

5. PROCEDURE

The Procedure was noted.

6. POLICY ON CONVICTIONS FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING – CONSULTATION

The Committee considered a report relating to the proposed changes to the policy on convictions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing.

The Licensing Manager introducing the report and advised Members that the Policy was approved by Council in 2006 but it now requires updating in light of recent changes regarding the procedures for criminal records and legislation involving safeguarding vulnerable children and adults.

The Officer advised that consultation would include current hackney carriage and private licence holders and other respective organisations and partners such as the Police, after which Members would be provided an opportunity to consider the outcomes.

It was **RESOLVED:**

1. That the proposed changes in the revised policy on convictions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing be agreed.
2. That it be noted that a formal 12 weeks consultation regarding the proposed policy on convictions for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire licensing matters commences for a period of 12 weeks would commence on 24th June 2013.

7. REVIEW OF LIMIT ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE NUMBERS

Members considered an Officer's report requesting to undertake an unmet demand survey in order to consider a review of the Council's current policy of limiting hackney carriage vehicle.

The Licensing Manager advised that presently the authority restricts its number of hackney carriage vehicles to 100. She also indicated that surveys conducted between 2002 and 2006 provide no evidence of their being any significant unmet demand.

The Officer advised that although there is no interest from any of the trade's members in making an application for any further hackney vehicle licences, holders of dual driver licences had requested to know when a review was to be undertaken.

The Officer informed Members of the various options and its implications.

In their deliberations, Members acknowledged that though business was very challenging for taxi drivers due to the economic climate, it was essential that an unmet survey be undertaken in order to shape Council policy.

It was **RESOLVED** that an unmet demand survey be undertaken to inform Members regarding future policy decisions on the limitation of hackney carriage license numbers.

8. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESOLVED**:

1. That, under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as described in paragraphs 1-7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act as amended by SI2006 No.88.
2. That, having considered the reasons for the following reports being in Part II, it be agreed that maintaining the exemption from disclosure of the information contained therein outweighs the public interest in disclosure

PART II

10. MINUTES – 15 APRIL 2013

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the General Purposes meeting held on 15 April 2013 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair subject to the inclusion of Councillor L Harrington and C Latif as attendees at the meeting.

11. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

The Chair