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**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**21 July 2005 – 6.30 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Garrod (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Cook, Easter, Hodds, Hudson, Hacon, Jeal, Peck, Reynolds, Thompson and Walker.

Councillor Ames substituted for Councillor Plant.

Miss Kirsten Black (Trainee Solicitor), Mr F Hoyle (Licensing Enforcement Officer) and Ms J Gulliver (Member Services Assistant).

**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 April 2005 were confirmed subject to an amendment that Councillor Ames had substituted for Councillor Plant at the previous meeting of the Licensing Committee.

**2. FIRST CLASS HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES**

**(a) Application for a First Class Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence**

Members considered the Licensing Officer's report in respect of an application for a First Class Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence, in view of the applicant's unspent convictions. The Committee was reminded of the Council's policy regarding previous convictions and the definition of a fit and proper person. It was also stressed that each case had to be considered on its own merits. The Committee received information on the convictions and agreed that the high number of convictions and the nature of the crimes committed caused concern.

**RESOLVED:**

That the application be refused.

**(b) Application for a First Class Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence**

Members considered the Licensing Officer's report in respect of an application for a First Class Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence, in view of the applicant's unspent conviction. The Committee was reminded of the Council's policy regarding previous convictions and the definition of a fit and proper person. It was also stressed that each case had to be considered on its own merits. The Committee received information on the conviction and the applicant confirmed the information in respect of the conviction.

RESOLVED:

That the application be granted.

### **3. APPLICATION FOR A NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE PLATE**

Members considered the Licensing Officer's report in respect of an application for a new Hackney Carriage vehicle plate. The Licensing Officer explained that in December 2004 the Executive made the decision to lift the current restriction on the number of hackney carriage plates that the Council could issue. It had been determined that any new plate issued would be to brand new purpose built accessible vehicle only and these vehicles could not be replaced, unless it was with an equivalent or newer purpose built model.

The applicant had requested to transfer his current licensed vehicle to a new Hackney Carriage plate. The Licensing Section had written to the applicant explaining that as his vehicle was not brand new, it had not met the Council's policy regarding new plates. Members considered all the information and agreed although it was unfortunate that the applicant's vehicle had only been six weeks old when the Executive made their policy change, it was agreed that to allow the application would open up the possibility for others to do the same whose vehicle also did not meet the current vehicle specification relating to new applications.

RESOLVED:

That the application be refused

### **4. CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 7.15 pm.