

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Licensing  
Committee held at Council Chamber,  
Surrey Heath House on 9 September  
2015**

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+ Cllr Bill Chapman (Chairman)  
+ Cllr Ian Sams (Vice Chairman)

+ Cllr Nick Chambers	+ Cllr Jonathan Lytle
+ Cllr Mrs Vivienne Chapman	+ Cllr Bruce Mansell
+ Cllr Surinder Gandhum	+ Cllr Nic Price
+ Cllr Ruth Hutchinson	- Cllr Conrad Sturt
+ Cllr Paul Ilnicki	+ Cllr Pat Tedder
+ Cllr Rebecca Jennings-Evans	+ Cllr Valerie White
+ Cllr Oliver Lewis	

+ Present

- Apologies for absence presented

**5/L Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**6/L Taxi Licensing - Deregulation Act 2015**

The Chairman proposed that the item be deferred in order for further information to be obtained before the item was considered.

**RESOLVED to defer the item to the next meeting.**

**7/L Taxi Licensing - Engine Capacity Requirements**

The Committee was informed that councils which had adopted the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 had the right to set conditions and regulations relating to Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles on the grounds of public safety. One of the conditions which had been set by this Council related to a minimum engine capacity of 1600cc being required for all licensed vehicles.

It was recognised that, since the adoption of the Act in the mid-1970s, the automobile industry had greatly improved safety standards and the efficiency of power units. Most diesel powered cars were now turbocharged, whilst others now benefited from electrically assisted hybrid engines.

The current engine capacity limit of 1600cc was considered to be an unnecessary burden on the taxi trade and to inhibit the trade from using less polluting and more efficient smaller engine or hybrid electric cars. Members noted the minimum engine capacity limits in place at neighbouring local authorities, a number of whom required a minimum capacity of 1300cc.

It was reported that there were no particular restrictions for taxi drivers on the make and model of their vehicles, but they must have 4 or more doors.

**RESOLVED that the current minimum engine capacity limit for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles be reduced from 1600cc to 1300cc and that any engine capacity requirement for vehicles powered by an electric hybrid system be removed.**

**8/L Licensing Act 2003 - Summary of Decisions**

The Committee received details of the decisions taken under delegated powers in respect of licence applications where no representations had been received from the responsible authorities or any other persons.

Chairman