

South Somerset District Council

Notice of Meeting



Licensing Committee

Making a difference where it counts

Tuesday 5th August 2008

10.00 am

**Council Chamber
Council Offices
Brympton Way
Yeovil
Somerset**

The public and press are welcome to attend.

If you would like any further information on the items to be discussed, please ring the Agenda Co-ordinator, **Lyn Lockyer** on Yeovil (01935) 462462
email: democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk, website: www.southsomerset.gov.uk

This Agenda was issued on Friday, 25th July 2008

Ian Clarke, Head of Legal and Democratic Services



2007-2008
Neighbourhood and
Community Champions:
The Role of Elected Members
2006-2007
Improving Rural Services
Empowering Communities
2005-2006
Getting Closer to Communities

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Braille, audio or another language,
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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Licensing Committee Membership

Chairman Nigel Mermagen
Vice-Chairman Martin Wale

Simon Bending
 Dave Bulmer
 John Vincent Chainey
 Tony Fife
 John Hann

Roy Mills
 David Recardo
 Peter Roake
 Keith Ronaldson
 Alan Smith

Linda Vijeh
 Lucy Wallace
 Colin Winder

South Somerset District Council – Corporate Aims

Our key aims are: (all equal)

- To deliver well managed cost effective services valued by our customers
- To increase economic vitality and prosperity
- To improve the health and well-being of our citizens
- To ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities
- To promote a balanced natural and built environment

Members' Questions on Reports prior to the Meeting

Members of the Committee are requested to contact report authors on points of clarification prior to the Committee meeting.

Information for the Public

The Licensing Committee shall be responsible for those licensing functions listed in part 3 of the Constitution as being the responsibility of the Committee. This will include licensing matters referred to it by officers, in accordance with the Officer Scheme of Delegation, such as contested public entertainment licences, and applications for taxi driver licences where the officer considers the application should be determined by members. The Committee shall also be responsible for all the functions assigned to it under the Licensing Act 2003.

Meetings of the Licensing Committee are held bi-monthly at 10.00am on the first Tuesday of the month in the Council Offices, Brympton Way.

Licensing Committee agendas and minutes are published on the Council's website www.southsomerset.gov.uk

The Council's Constitution is also on the web site and available for inspection in council offices.

Further information can be obtained by contacting the agenda co-ordinator named on the front page.

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Licensing Committee

Tuesday 5th August at 10.00 am

Agenda

Preliminary Items

1. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the previous Licensing and Sub-Committee meetings held on 4th December 2007, 1st February, 15th February, 27th March, 11th April, 25th April, 16th May and 13th June 2008
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Declarations of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct, which includes all the provisions of the statutory Model Code of Conduct, Members are asked to declare any personal interests (and whether or not such an interest is "prejudicial") in any matter on the Agenda for this meeting. A personal interest is defined in paragraph 8 of the Code and a prejudicial interest is defined in paragraph 10.

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Confidential

10. Update on Operation Relentless
11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is 7th October 2008.

Licensing Committee – 5th August 2008

4. Report on Sunrise Festival 2008

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister – Health and Wellbeing
Head of Service: Laurence Willis, Environmental Health and Community Protection
Lead Officer: Julia Bradburn Principal Licensing Officer Licensing
Contact Details: Julia.bradburn@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462113

Purpose of the Report

To update members of the Licensing Committee on the 2008 Sunrise Festival, and the licensing issues arising from the cancellation of the event.

Recommendation(s)

That Members note the report.

Background

Members will be familiar with the licence for Sunrise 2008, having debated the matter at a full licensing hearing on 27th March 2008.

Sunrise 2008

Following extensive media coverage of the event, members will also have been aware of the cancellation of the event due to torrential rain in the days leading up to the festival. A summary of events leading up to the decision to cancel and the issues that arose following cancellation are detailed below.

Wednesday 28th May 2008

When the council team arrived on site they found the site to be flooded throughout and the entrance to the production compound and all roads on site to be 6 – 8 inches underwater. The main arena was underwater and this had slowed site build to a halt.

Due to the conditions, all council staff were taken off site at midday, and the site was then attended for a risk assessment by Bob Killick (Health and Safety), Julia Bradburn (Licensing) and Annette Barrell (Food safety). It was agreed to stay offsite and reassess at 6p.m. that evening to see if the water levels had dropped.

At this stage, the Medical Marquee was operational, with electricity, water and heating connected. One fully equipped ambulance was on site. There was an issue with the medical response times in that they would be slower because of the difficulty in moving around the site. The medical unit had clean toilets, but was awaiting the provision of showers.

There were 125 stewards already on site, with a number still to arrive and waiting outside for conditions to improve. It was agreed that the stewards could operate with a smaller team until the remaining stewards could move onto site.

A scheduled multi agency meeting was held at Taylor's garage at 6p.m., when it was clear that traffic unable to get on to the site was waiting in the garage area and starting to back up onto the A303.

Security were finding that it was difficult running mobile patrols on the site perimeter, and their response with vehicles was slower because of the need for greater control of traffic and people.

The organisers ordered 700m of tracking that would be laid at various locations on site the following day as soon as it arrived.

The organisers estimated that there had been around 6000 tickets sold to the public and there were approximately 3000 production crew, traders and Artists.

The organisers had placed a number of media messages asking people not to arrive until later on Thursday or Friday. The site by mutual consent of the organisers was closed until 0800 the following day to allow it to dry out.

Thursday 29th May 2008

At 8 a.m. site opening was delayed until 1p.m. to allow laying of tracking and site recovery. The route onto site was being well managed despite the problems, but there needed to be clear signage for the emergency vehicle route.

A weather report from the Met Office was received detailing heavy showers expected that afternoon.

It became apparent early in the morning that there could be no vehicle movement on site without being towed by 4x4 vehicle or tractor.

The welfare area of the site had flooded and they had had to move their operation into 2 caravans.

Track way was laid into the car park, so movement onto site improved, woodchip was laid on the pedestrian walkway. All sanitary arrangements were working, electrics were complete and site would have lighting by the evening. The pedestrian bridge remained partially underwater and could not be used. The farmer was assisting the organisers with tractors to tow vehicles on site.

There had been some complaints received from residents about festival goers walking down the lane. The liaison patrols with the local community had started.

By mid day there were 200 stewards on site.

At 1 p.m. the police informed the team on site that traffic was starting to build on the Cartgate and A303 due to the fact that the organisers could not get people on site fast enough with all vehicles being towed onto site with tractors from the main entrance.

At 6 p.m. torrential rain hit areas across South Somerset.

At 6.25 p.m. the Directors contacted Licensing to say that they had approximately 5000 people on site but had decided to cancel the festival. SSDC and police immediately attended the site to assist with the assessment of the site and the arrangements for the dispersal of the public and crew.

Due to the time it was agreed that if people could not leave then they were to be allowed to camp on site overnight and be assisted to leave the following day.

Friday 30th May 2008

The farmer had organised tractors to haul vehicles off the site to the hard road and tracks.

The Council arranged extra coaches from SW Coaches to shuttle people from the site to Yeovil Bus Station.

During the night there were a number of tent thefts, and a positive security presence was required to deter a repeat. Additional security was brought in for this purpose.

Welfare were given a supply of space blankets by SSDC, and wellies and socks were also distributed.

During the day SSDC staff remained on site to assist with the safe dispersal of the public and crew

By the 6 p.m. meeting, the organisers reported that festival goers were leaving, but that some were having to wait for a tow off site.

By 8 p.m. the organisers maintained that public camping had been cleared although there were still some public camping with displaced crew in the Woodhenge area of the site. Tents were still in place for those waiting to be towed out to allow them some dry shelter if it rained again.

Some 80% of traders had left the site and the entertainment sites had been broken down and sound equipment removed to prevent unauthorised use. It was probable that those remaining on site would create some self generated entertainment when not working.

The crew food arrangements were still operational, they were cleaning their area and food was being donated. The team were tired, but still working.

Arrangements to transport people off site would change from the bus to a twelve seater Landrover, as demand declined.

Further arrangements were made to ensure some continued support from the farmer regarding tractors to remove vehicles from the site.

Saturday 31st May 2008

At the morning meeting it was agreed that the site was to be cleared of all remaining crew that were non-essential to the closedown of the festival.

Security on site was now only manning the gates. AMASS security (the main contractors) would leave the site at 8 a.m. on 1st June.

There were approximately 400 vehicles left on site.

Most volunteers had left the site including the Litter pickers, although a core team of around 30 remained.

The message to leave was passed to all on site by sweeping through with all available staff. SSDC staff encouraged remaining food traders to close and depart to remove opportunities or any desire for people to remain.

The landrover that had been identified as available to transport pedestrians at the previous evening's meeting had now left the site. SSDC provided details of taxi operators who could collect people without their own transport. It was not felt that there were many who would be unable to leave the site by their own means.

The site owner reminded the organisers and others that there were a number of spikes and sharp objects left in the mud (tent pegs, marquee spikes) and that these presented a danger of damage to vehicle and tractor tyres.

Security reported one incident overnight when a confrontation arose when requesting that music be turned down. The situation was de-escalated and there were no reports of crime overnight.

The medics reported that all was well but the condition of the site still affected their response times. Only two people had presented with problems overnight.

Organisers reported that trucks would be coming onto site for the removal of stages and marquees. They would be held at 'C' Gate and then escorted to points as required.

Sunday 1st June

The site was reassessed at 11 p.m. and 3 p.m. and by mid-morning was relatively clear.

Monday 2nd June

SSDC retired from the site following a final multi agency meeting and handed the final arrangements to the festival organisers.

The final report from medical was that 37 patients were attended, 5 were conveyed off site to Yeovil hospital, none of the medical incidents were serious however there were 2 fractures due to slips and trips contributed to by the site conditions.

The police reported 10 thefts from tents and one assault on gate staff from a local resident which was under investigation by the police. No arrests were made.

Complaints following the festival

A number of complaints have been received following the festival from the residents of the local area. There were also a number of letters in the press from residents as well as comments both positive and negative on various web forums.

Financial Implications

Even though the staff on duty worked intensively until Saturday 31st May, the rota organized for noise patrols was significantly reduced, and so overall costs were less than expected for a normal festival.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Impact on Corporate aims 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Other Implications

A number of complaints from the local residents.

Background Papers: None

Licensing Committee – 5th August 2008

5. Report on Gambling Act Delegation

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister
Head of Service:: Laurence Willis, Head of Environmental Health & Community Protection
Lead Officer: Anita Legg, Licensing Officer, Environmental Health & Community Protection
Contact Details: anita.legg@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462137

Purpose of the Report

To inform members that a new scheme of delegation for the Gambling Act 2005 is required in order that powers can be delegated to Members and Officers.

Recommendation

To recommend the adoption of the interim scheme of delegation before it is submitted to the District Executive to be included in the Council's Scheme of Delegation for 2009.

Background

The Gambling Commission in their guidance to Local Authorities¹ recommended the current scheme of delegation for the Gambling Act, which has been adopted by the Council; however, in practice, the Licensing team have found that this scheme is incomplete and therefore we are currently unable to carry certain functions under the Act.

Report Detail

Huntingdon District Council has produced a more extensive scheme of delegation, which has been amended in accordance with the guidance of SSDC assistant solicitor, Mrs Watson to comply with a similar type of delegation authority to that of Licensing Act 2003. The suggested scheme of delegation can be found below at Table 1 and a comparison can be made with the current scheme of delegation, which can be found below at Table 2.

The types of functions that are unable to be carried out at present include the following:

Licensing Committee/Licensing Sub-Committee

- The power for the committee to make a decision to remove certain entitlements to carry out gambling at specific problem premises.
- To refuse to grant or renew an application for a prize gaming permit.

Officers

- To cancel premises licences and permits should payment not be made in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.
- To determine whether representations are frivolous, vexatious or would certainly not influence a sub-committee decision
- To determine whether a licence or permit has lapsed

¹ Gambling Commission. *Guidance to Licensing Authorities*. 2nd edition. Published June 2007

- To issue a counter-notice where the number of permitted days are exceeded
- To object to a Temporary Use Notice
- To administer all aspects of small lottery registrations and revocation

TABLE 1 - SUGGESTED SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS OF LICENSING FUNCTIONS

MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH	FULL COUNCIL	SUB-COMMITTEE	OFFICERS
Three year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee Setting - when appropriate		X	
Application for premises licences		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn, including attachment of conditions to Premises Licence or exclusion of default conditions	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn Determination as to whether representation is vexatious, frivolous, or would certainly not influence the authority's determination of application
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a transfer of a licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission and not withdrawn	Where no representations received from the Commission or have been withdrawn
Revocation of premises licence for failure to pay annual fee			X
Determination that a premises licence has lapsed			X
Reinstatement of lapsed premises licence		Where representations have been made and not withdrawn	Reinstatement of lapsed premises licence when no representations have been made or has been withdrawn
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn Decision to disregard representations made in respect of application for premises licence after issue of provisional statement

Review of a premises licence		Action following review of premises licence	Rejection of application for review of premises licence on various grounds Initiation of review of premises licence Determination that representation about a review of a premises licence, is frivolous, vexatious or would certainly not influence the authority's determination of application
Temporary Use Notices		Decision to issue a counter notice to a temporary use notice	Issue of counter-notice to Temporary Use Notice where number of permitted days are exceeded Objection to Temporary Use Notices
Making of an Order to remove the entitlement to exempt equal chance gaming from specific holders of an on-premises alcohol licence		X	
Making of an Order to remove the automatic entitlement of up to two gaming machines from specific holders of an on-premises alcohol licence		X	
Institution of criminal proceedings in respect to an offence under the provisions of the Act			The Head of Environmental Health and Community Protection only
Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit		Refusal of application or limitation on number of machines granted Cancellation of Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit or variation of number or category of machines in respect of which representations received (and not withdrawn).	Determination of application for grant, variation or transfer of permit Cancellation of Licensing Premises Gaming Machine Permit and variation of number or category of machine where no representation is received or has been withdrawn Cancellation of Licensed Premises Gaming Machine Permit for failure to pay annual fee
Determination of applications for Club Gaming Machine permits and/or Club Gaming Permits or their renewal		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Determination of application for		Where representations have been received and not	Where no representations received/ representations

variation of permit Cancellation of club gaming / club machine permits		withdrawn For offence or breach of condition of permit; or premises are used mainly by children or young persons	have been withdrawn For failure to pay annual fee
Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Machine Permit			Determination of application. The Head (or deputy in their absence) of Environmental Health and Community Protection only Notification of lapse of Family Entertainment Centre Gaming Permit
Prize Gaming Permits		Refusal of application to grant or renew an application for a permit	Determination to grant application for permit and application to renew Determination that permit has lapsed
Small Society Lotteries Small Society Lotteries			Registration for society for small society lottery Refusal of application for registration of society for small society lottery Revocation of registration of society for small society lottery Cancellation of registration of small society lottery for non-payment of annual fee

TABLE 2 - CURRENT TABLE OF DELEGATIONS OF LICENSING FUNCTIONS

MATTER TO BE DEALT WITH	FULL COUNCIL	SUB-COMMITTEE	OFFICERS
Three year licensing policy	X		
Policy not to permit casinos	X		
Fee Setting - when appropriate		X	
Application for premises licences		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Application for a variation to a licence		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn

Application for a transfer of a licence		Where representations have been received from the Commission	Where no representations received from the Commission
Application for a provisional statement		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Review of a premises licence		X	
Application for club gaming /club machine permits		Where representations have been received and not withdrawn	Where no representations received/ representations have been withdrawn
Cancellation of club gaming/ club machine permits		X	
Applications for other permits			X
Cancellation of licensed premises gaming machine permits			X
Consideration of temporary use notice			X
Decision to give a counter notice to a temporary use notice		X	

Financial Implications

None.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Corporate Aim No 3 - To improve the health and well-being of our citizens
 Corporate Aim No 4 - To ensure safe and sustainable cohesive communities

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: *Gambling Act 2005*

Licensing Committee – 5th August 2008

6. Update on DDA Taxi Requirements

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister – Health and Wellbeing
Head of Service: Laurence Willis, Environmental Health and Community Protection
Lead Officer: Julia Bradburn Principal Licensing Officer Licensing
Contact Details: Julia.bradburn@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462113

Purpose of the Report

To inform the members of the Licensing Committee of the latest government position on DDA taxi requirements.

Recommendations

That members note the report.

Background

Taxis have a key role to play in the provision of door-to-door services for disabled and older people. The combination of the personal service offered by taxis, their wide availability in terms of both time of day or night and area and their door-to-door operations mean that they are of particular value to people with disabilities.

Whilst access to public transport for disabled and older people in recent years has improved considerably, taxis remain a challenge for transport accessibility, primarily due to the structure and organisation of the taxi sector. In particular, the predominant design of vehicles used for this purpose in most countries remains difficult for many disabled and older people to use.

In 1994 ECMT Ministers of Transport approved a resolution which, amongst others, recommended that vehicle manufacturers and designers should be encouraged to address accessibility in the design of all taxis. Although progress in improving the accessibility of taxis has been made in some countries, implementing the 1994 resolution has generally been slow. Only one European country is known to have more than 20percent of its taxi fleet accessible for wheelchair users. Most countries have less than 10 percent, and in some cases none at all.

Given that there are in excess of 45 million disabled people across Europe, including as many as 3 to 4 million wheelchair users, it is clearly important that accessibility to taxi services should be improved.

Following the implementation of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 the government announced a target that all taxis in local authority areas should become wheelchair accessible over a 10 year period from 2010. South Somerset District Council was listed to be in the first stage of the DDA roll out commencing 1st January 2010.

The DDA 1995 however does not extend to private hire vehicles and is only aimed at hackney carriage vehicles.

Current Government DDA Position

Until recently we had no communication from the government with regards to the situation. The last communication we had was dated 2003 when we were informed of the date of the changeover and that the government intended to set the standards for the DDA taxis.

On 18th March 2008 a letter was sent from the DFT stating that following a number of representations making a case for a broader range of disabled peoples needs to be met in regulation rather than just restricting the matter to wheelchair access. As a result the expected regulations have not been made.

As a result the government is now intending to develop a consultation package for this summer to seek views on the way forward. This will without a doubt set the proposed time scale back from the intended 2010 start date.

The DFT have stated in their letter that accessible taxi policies remain a matter for individual licensing authorities.

Financial Implications

Currently None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Possible impact on corporate aim number 3 improving the health and well being of our citizens.

Other Implications

Possible criticism for not devising disabled access plan ahead of government requirements

Background Papers: *Disability Discrimination Act 1995*
Letter from Nigel Dotchin Department for Transport dated 18th March 2008
International Road Transport Union Report "Improving Access to Taxis" 2007

Licensing Committee – 5th August 2008

7. Street Trading Fees

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister – Health and Wellbeing
Head of Service: Laurence Willis, Environmental Health and Community Protection
Lead Officer: Julia Bradburn Principal Licensing Officer Licensing
Contact Details: Julia.bradburn@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462113

Purpose of the Report

To update the Committee on the position of street trading and request the setting of the street trading fees.

Recommendation(s)

- (1) That members note the report, policy and decision of the District Executive of 10th July 2008.
- (2) That the Committee set the level of street trading fees

Background

Attached to this report is the originating report to District Executive and the decision made by the District Executive. Also attached is the final version of the Street Trading Policy for the attention of the Committee.

The final stage of the street trading process is the agreement of the level of fees.

Report Detail

In order to maintain a balance between street trading and markets it is proposed that the street trading fees be set in line with the market traders fees and then any increase will either be in line with an increase with the market fees or the rate of inflation.

The proposed fees are £11 per day per pitch for permanent traders and £13 per day per pitch for casual traders trading part of the week or for a period of less than 3 months.

Financial Implications

That the anticipated additional income of £10,000 in 2008/09 be returned to general fund balances and £15,000 for 2009/10 be added to the medium term financial plan

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Corporate Aim, number 2 Increase economic vitality and prosperity.

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: Report to DX 10th July 2008
 Street Trading Policy
 Decision from DX 10th July 2008

(From District Executive 10th July 2008)

Street Trading (Agenda Item 9)

RESOLVED: (1) that the final Street Trading Policy as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;

unanimous
(9 - 0)

- (2) that the drafting and sealing of the street trading order be approved;
- (3) that the delegation of street trading to Yeovil Town Council be extended to cover the agreed area and a new agreement be drawn and sealed;
- (4) that the street trading function within SSDC be administered by the Licensing Service;
- (5) that the anticipated additional income of £10,000 in 2008/09 be returned to general fund balances and £15,000 for 2009/10 be added to the medium term financial plan.
- (6) that the Head of Environmental Health and Community Protection in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Environmental Health and Inclusion be delegated to approve minor technical changes to the Policy as appropriate.

Reason: to gain final approval for the Street Trading Policy and associated arrangements for setting fees, delegation arrangements and final order.

(Julia Bradburn, Principal Licensing Officer – (01935) 462113)
(Julia.bradburn@southsomerset.gov.uk)

Licensing Committee - 5th August 2008

8. Taxi Fare Increase

Executive Portfolio Holder: Ric Pallister – Health and Wellbeing
Head of Service: Laurence Willis – Environmental Health and Community Protection
Lead Officer: Julia Bradburn Principal Licensing Officer Licensing
Contact Details: Julia.bradburn@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462113

Purpose of the Report

This report sets out the views of taxi operators following a consultation to assess the response to a proposed fee increase.

Recommendations

1. That the fares increase for Hackney Carriages requested by the operators be noted and the following options for the level of fares be agreed:

That the revised Hackney Carriage fares be agreed as set out in Table 3.

This option would include:

- (a) 60p be added to the flag rate increasing the price from £2.40 to £3.00
- (b) 10% be added to the flag rate for each 1/10 of a mile from £0.20 to £0.22
- (c) There be no increase in the cost of waiting time.

The fares are inclusive of VAT and the proposed implementation date for the above would be 1st October 2008 subject to no objections being received.

2. That any responses received following the advertising of fares are considered under delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and any subsequent changes are reported to the Licensing Committee for information.

Background

The District Council is responsible for setting the fares that can be charged by hackney carriages (taxis) operating in the district. The taxi fares were last increased in May 2005. The taxi drivers refused a rise in 2006- 2007 and 2007 – 2008.

Since the last increase in fares in May 2005 the cost of petrol has rise from an average of 86p per litre to 119 pence per litre. Therefore the taxi drivers have requested a fare increase to be considered.

The Strategic Director (Finance) has delegated authority to increase the fares annually at the rate of inflation. However due to the cost of petrol the proposed rise is above the rate of inflation.

The fares for hackney carriages are calculated on the distance travelled and, at present, operators can charge a flat rate fare of £2.40 for the first 6/10th of a mile and 20p per 1/10th of a mile thereafter.

The fares set by the Council are the maximum that can be charged by hackney carriages that are licensed to ply for hire within the district.

Fares Review

The annual fares review was conducted via consultation questionnaire with the operators during June and July of this year. As a result there is a general consensus that fares still do not accurately reflect cost, and there were continuing recruitment difficulties for drivers. The operators also felt that taxis played an important part in public transport in the area. The costs of running vehicles had increased but fares had not kept pace.

For comparative purposes a survey of fares charged in surrounding districts has been carried out and the results are set out below:

Table 1

	Flag	1 Mile	2 Miles	Running Mile
East Devon	2.40	3.60	5.40	1.80
Sedgemoor	2.20	3.20	5.20	1.88
Taunton Deane	2.00	3.40	5.40	1.96
West Dorset	2.50	3.40	5.20	1.80
Mendip	2.20	3.20	5.00	1.79
North Dorset	2.10	3.30	5.10	1.81
South Somerset	2.40	3.20	5.20	2.00

Table 2

	Flag	1 Mile	2 Miles	Running Mile
East Devon	3.00	4.60	6.80	2.20
Sedgemoor	3.30	4.80	7.80	2.82
Taunton Deane	3.00	5.10	8.10	2.93
West Dorset	3.75	5.10	7.80	2.70
Mendip	3.30	4.80	7.50	2.69
North Dorset	2.80	4.30	6.80	2.42
South Somerset	3.60	4.80	7.80	3.00

Note: The key mileage rate used by the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine to compare rates is 2 miles.

It is recognised that the fares proposed by the operators represent a large percentage increase. In terms of the change in the calculation of the minimum distance this could impact on older people or people with mobility difficulties who rely on taxi travel.

However it is to be noted that the fares set are maximum fares and it is for the operator to decide whether or not he chooses to charge the maximum fare or a reduced price as is common practice.

The new fare scales would be as shown below.

Table 3

Distance	Present Fare	Proposed Fare	% Increase
6/10 th	2.40	3.00	25
1 mile	3.20	3.88	21
2 miles	5.20	6.08	17
5 miles	11.20	12.68	13

Advertising the Fares

Once the Licensing Committee has agreed the fares increase it has to be publicly advertised in a local newspaper. The Town Councils that have delegated responsibility for licensing are also consulted. It is recommended that any responses received are considered under delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio holder and any subsequent changes are reported to the Licensing Committee for information.

Financial and Other Implications

Members will be aware that the taxi service plays an important role in meeting transport needs particularly in rural areas. The Council has to consider the impact a large increase would have on the public many of whom rely heavily on taxis in the absence of alternative public transport. However, this has to be balanced against the need for operators to generate sufficient income to provide a reliable quality service to the public.

Implications for Corporate Priorities

Increase economic vitality and prosperity

Other Implications

None

Background Papers: none

Licensing Committee – 5th August 2008

9. Rota for Licensing Sub-Committees

Head of Service: Ian Clarke, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Lead Officer: Jo Morris, Committee Administrator

Contact Details: jo.morris@southsomerset.gov.uk or 01935 462055

Purpose of the Report

The Committee is asked to review the working of the Licensing Sub-Committees and to agree to continue operating the rota.

Recommendation

To agree that the Licensing Sub-Committees continue on a rota basis and to agree the rota for the remainder of the year.

Background

At its meeting on 7th August 2007 the Licensing Committee agreed that Licensing/Taxi Sub-Committees would be scheduled on every Friday morning. A rota of five teams of Licensing Committee members was established to start in September 2007.

Report

During the period January to June 2008 seven sub-committees have been convened, including four taxi licensing sub-committees. The rota system has worked reasonably well during this period although on occasions it has been necessary for the Committee Administrator to ask a member from the third or fourth team on the rota when members have been unavailable.

It is recommended that the rota system continues for the Licensing Sub-Committees and attached at Appendix A is an updated rota up until the end of the year.

Financial Implications

None

Implications for Corporate Priorities

None

Background Papers: None

Licensing Sub Committee Rota 2008

In order to assist members with their diaries a Licensing/Taxi Sub Committee will be scheduled for every Friday morning (See Rota below).

In the event of no meeting being required the meeting will be cancelled and members given 7 days notice of this cancellation.

In the event of a member's non-availability for a scheduled meeting a member/chairman will be requested in Rota order

	Chairman	Member	Member
Team A Fri 8 th Aug, Fri 12 th Sept, Fri 17 th Oct, Fri 21 st Nov	Nigel Mermagen West	John Vincent Chainey South	Lucy Wallace East
Team B Fri 15 th Aug, Fri 19 th Sept, Fri 24 th Oct, Fri 28 th Nov	Martin Wale West	John Hann South	Colin Winder East
Team C Fri 22 nd Aug, Fri 26 th Sept, Fri 31 st Oct, Fri 5 th Dec	Tony Fife South	Dave Bulmer West	Keith Ronaldson North
Team D Fri 29 th Aug, Fri 3 rd Oct, Fri 7 th Nov, Fri 12 th Dec	Roy Mills <i>North</i>	Simon Bending West	David Recardo South
Team E Fri 5 th Sept, Fri 10 th Oct, Fri 14 th Nov, Fri 19 th Dec	Linda Vijeh <i>West</i>	Alan Smith South	Peter Roake South

