BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE 2003
(Non Licensing Act 2003 Functions)

3.00PM –THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2008

COUNCIL CHAMBER
HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Simson (Chairman); Councillors Hyde (Deputy Chairman); Pidgeon (Deputy Chairman), Councillors Barnett, Cobb, Davey, Fryer, Hamilton, Hawkes, Janio, Lepper (OS), Marsh, Older, Watkins and West.

PART ONE

ACTION

26   PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

26A   Declarations of Substitutes

26.1   Councillor Barnett substitute for Councillor Smart.
         Councillor Janio substitute for Councillor Theobald.

26B   Declarations of Interest

26.2   There were none.

26C   Exclusion of Press and Public

26.3   The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

26.4   **RESOLVED -** That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

27   MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2007

27.1 **RESOLVED –** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

28. CALLOVER

28.1 **RESOLVED** – That all the items on the agenda be reserved for discussion

29. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

29.1 The Chairman stated that since the last meeting of the Committee, there had been 1 revocation of a taxi licence and three individual formal warnings issued to drivers. The revocation was because a driver had been driving over the limit and had a ban on driving imposed on him resulting in the loss of his taxi licence.

30. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

30.1 There were none.

31. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE REVIEW

31.1 The Committee considered a report seeking permission to advertise proposed fare increases following the Hackney Carriage Trade's request for an increase in fares.

31.2 The report also asked for the adoption of a policy that requires all new or replacement multi-seater vehicles (vehicles capable of carrying 5-8 passengers) to be wheelchair accessible.

31.3 The Committee were generally in favour with the proposed increase. However, there were some concerns over the structure of the increase. It appeared that short journeys were cheaper which could prove a disincentive to cycling or walking, while long journeys became more expensive thus making car ownership more attractive. This was deemed to be a measure that went against issues pertaining to sustainable transport in the city. It was felt by some that this policy could adversely affect elderly residents of the city who would not be able to walk or cycle the distances to shops, clinics or hospitals.

31.4 The Committee discussed the proposal that multi-seater vehicles should be wheelchair accessible, and agreed that this should be adopted. It was felt important that a mixed fleet be available

within the city.

31.5   **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Director of Environment be authorised to advertise the proposed variation in fares and to invite any objections in accordance with the legal requirements.

(2) That it be agreed that if no objections are made, or if any objections which are made are withdrawn, the varied table of fares will come into force from the date specified in the relevant notice.

(3) That the matter be reconsidered at the next meeting of the Licensing Committee if valid objections are made but not withdrawn.

(4) That the following policy with regard to multi-seater vehicles be adopted:
That from the 1 June 2008 all new or replacement multi-seater vehicles (vehicles capable of carrying 5 to 8 passengers) are wheelchair accessible.

32.   ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

32.1   **RESOLVED -** That no items go forward to Council.

The meeting concluded at 3.25 pm

Signed   Chairman

Dated this   day of   2008