
Licensing and Protection Panel

Report of the meeting held on 20th October 2005

Matters for Information

7. **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT ACT**

The Panel has been acquainted with the implications for the Council of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. Having noted the new powers and duties created by the Act and the matters that fall within their remit in relation to the statutory noise nuisances, the Panel has authorised the Director of Operational Services to appoint authorised Officers to enforce Part 7 of the Act and, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Panel, to institute proceedings for the prosecution of offenders for offences under that Part.

8. **THE COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION: INTERIM VARIATION PENDING THE APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES**

The Panel has approved interim arrangements pending the recruitment of a replacement Director of Operational Services following the resignation of the previous incumbent of the post.

9. **LICENSING OF TAXIS AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

The Panel has endorsed a response to a consultation exercise by the Department for Transport on Best Practice Guidance for local authorities on taxi and private hire licensing which has been issued following an Office of Fair Trading report on the subject. The Panel has been informed that the Council already complies with most aspects of the draft Guidance. However, Members have noted the recommendation in both the draft Guidance and the Office of Fair Trading report that quantity restrictions on taxi licences should be dispensed with by licensing authorities or their retention justified by authorities by means of a triennial survey of both demand and the implications of limiting the number of licences issued.

J M Sadler
Chairman