

Cabinet

**Tuesday, 11th December, 2012
6.00 - 7.25 pm**

Attendees	
Councillors:	Steve Jordan (Leader of the Council), John Rawson (Cabinet Member Finance), Rowena Hay (Cabinet Member Sport and Culture), Peter Jeffries (Cabinet Member Housing and Safety), Andrew McKinlay (Cabinet Member Built Environment), Jon Walklett (Cabinet Member Corporate Services) and Roger Whyborn (Cabinet Member Sustainability)
Also in attendance:	Councillor Penny Hall

Extract of the Minutes

1. LICENSING OF RICKSHAWS IN CHELTENHAM

The Leader of the Council explained that he was using his discretion in inviting Mr Meyer of Rickshaw Revolution to address Cabinet. Mr Meyer believed that it had taken the Council a considerable amount of time to consider his application for operating licensed rickshaws in the town and had submitted a complaint to that effect. He recognised that safety concerns were of utmost importance and referred to the Gloucestershire Constabulary consultation document which had drawn attention to the City of Westminster report on the safety of rickshaws. He asked why the definitive City of Westminster report had not satisfied the council in granting a licence for operating rickshaws in Cheltenham.

In response the Cabinet Member Housing and Safety explained that the rickshaws operating in London were unlicensed. He explained that Cabinet had considered the issue in September but Members were still concerned that there were no safety standards for rickshaws or the manufacture of rickshaws. The Hackney Carriage legislation was not fit for purpose with regard to licensing rickshaws but as this was due to be revised in 2013/14 it was proposed that the decision be deferred until then.

Members were supportive of the amended resolution, highlighting continued safety concerns and the complexities in policy. They recognised the contribution a rickshaw service could have on tourism and wished to find a workable solution. When asked whether rickshaws could operate unlicensed in the town the Cabinet Member confirmed that this was possible on a private hire basis. Members advised Mr Meyer to discuss this possibility directly with the Licensing Officer.

RESOLVED

To defer a decision on the licensing of rickshaws in Cheltenham until the outcome of the taxi and private hire licensing law reform review by the Law Commission is published in 2013/14.

