

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
HELD ON 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012 AT 10.00 A.M.**

P Councillor Chris Davies  
P Councillor Fi Hance  
P Councillor Alf Havvock  
P Councillor Brenda Hugill  
P Councillor Jay Jethwa  
P Councillor Mike Langley  
A Councillor Tim Leaman  
P Councillor David Morris

**PSP  
1.5/12**

**MEMBERSHIP OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
COMMITTEE FOR THE 2012/13 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

**RESOLVED - that membership of the Public Safety and  
Protection Committee for the 2012/13  
Municipal Year be as follows:-**

**Councillor Davies  
Councillor Hance  
Councillor Havvock  
Councillor Hugill  
Councillor Jethwa  
Councillor Langley  
Councillor Leaman  
Councillor Morris**

**PSP  
2.5/12**

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**RESOLVED - that Councillor Morris be elected Chair of the  
Public Safety and Protection Committee for  
the 2012/13 Municipal Year.**

**PSP  
3.5/12 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

**RESOLVED - that Councillor Hugill be elected Vice-Chair of the Public Safety and Protection Committee for the 2012/13 Municipal Year.**

**PSP  
4.5/12 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED - that the Terms of Reference of the Public Safety and Protection Committee be noted.**

**PSP  
5.5/12 DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED - that the Public Safety and Protection Committee meet on the following dates, with a start time of 10.00 a.m.:-**

**Tuesday 3rd July 2012  
Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2012  
Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2012  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2012  
Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2012  
Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2013  
Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013  
Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2013  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2013**

**PSP  
6.5/12 MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

**RESOLVED - that membership of Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committees A and B be agreed as follows:-**

**Sub A  
Councillor Havvock  
Councillor Hance  
Councillor Hugill  
Councillor Jethwa**

**Sub B**  
**Councillor Davies**  
**Councillor Langley**  
**Councillor Leaman**  
**Councillor Morris**

**PSP**  
**7.5/12**      **SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**RESOLVED -**      **that the Sub-Committee Terms of Reference be noted.**

**PSP**  
**8.5/12**      **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE, SUBSTITUTIONS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies were received from Councillor Leaman.

**PSP**  
**9.5/12**      **PUBLIC FORUM**

None was received.

**PSP**  
**10.5/12**      **MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE A – 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2011**

**RESOLVED -**      **that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP**  
**11.5/12**      **MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE B – 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**RESOLVED -**      **that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee B held on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP  
12.5/12 MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE  
– 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Committee held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP  
13.5/12 MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE A – 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP  
14.5/12 MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE B – 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2012**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee B held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP  
15.5/12 MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE A – 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.**

**PSP  
16.5/12 MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE A – 29<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2012**

**RESOLVED - that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012 be confirmed as a**

correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PSP**

**17.5/12**

**MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE B – 6<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012**

**RESOLVED -** that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee B held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PSP**

**18.5/12**

**MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE A – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2012**

**RESOLVED -** that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PSP**

**19.5/12**

**MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY AND PROTECTION  
SUB-COMMITTEE A – 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2012**

**RESOLVED -** that the minutes of the meeting of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**PSP**

**20.5/12**

**INTRODUCTION OF THE BRISTOL GOLD STANDARD  
COMPETENCY AS A PRE-REQUIREMENT FOR THE GRANT  
OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE OR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER  
LICENCE.**

Nick Carter, Manager – Enforcement and Regulatory Services, reported that applicants for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences had to satisfy the Council that they were a 'fit and proper' person to hold a licence which was evaluated with a series of tests.

For the past two years, the Bristol Gold Standard competency has also been available to both trades on a voluntary basis and 250

drivers had achieved the standard in Bristol. The awards had been given to the drivers by the Lord Mayor in a number of ceremonies over the period which had been a positive experience for drivers. Some Local Authorities had made the standard mandatory for new and existing drivers which had not proved successful as some drivers had not wanted to engage.

In order to develop the service to the public and raise standards in the trade, it was proposed to introduce the Gold Standard as part of the 'fit and proper' person test for new applicants for both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licences. This would increase driver skills and knowledge which would enhance public safety and assist with tourism/ promotion of Bristol.

The Standard had been developed by officers from Licensing and Equalities along with Unite, BPAC, Destination Bristol and People 1<sup>st</sup>. Training would be delivered over four days and was classroom based. To date most applicants had not had to pay as there had been government funding but there was no guarantee that such funding would continue. It was anticipated that the highest cost to applicants would be £300.

The following points arose from questions raised:-

- Councillor Langley asked whether there was a facility to pay in instalments as £300 was a lot of money to pay up front for some applicants. Nick Carter replied that such an option would need to be explored with the applicant and training provider. Pauline Powell added that exceptions to the standard could be made where a driver had equivalent qualifications and that it was not therefore reasonable to make a driver take the training. Clearly, each possible exception would need to be treated on its own merits;
- It was hoped to develop a short top-up course for existing drivers who had already attained NVQ to bring them up to Gold Standard;
- It was noted that it was not felt reasonable to make the Gold Standard mandatory for existing drivers, particularly in the current financial climate. The standard would only apply to new applicants for driver licences;
- Councillor Hugill expressed her full support for raising of standards and asked whether drivers were aware of the costs. Nick Carter replied that the issue, including the cost,

had been discussed at trade forum meetings and that the trade were aware of the scheme details. There had been no negative feedback from them;

- Councillor Davies praised an excellent initiative. He suggested that drivers achieving the Gold Standard should be able to advertise this in some way in their vehicle. Nick Carter reported that drivers received a certificate and badge. It would have been helpful to place signage on the vehicle but vehicles were often shared with other drivers which meant that this was not straightforward;
- A command of the English language was considered one of the essential skills and an assessment was currently undertaken in the licensing office for drivers. For the Gold Standard, it would be undertaken by the contracted trainers and if the standard was not reached, drivers would be signposted to college to achieve that standard. Councillor Hance was supportive of the initiative and felt it was important to publicise it so that future drivers were aware what was expected of them. Nick Carter reported that applicants for licences would be made aware of the new requirement. The initiative had also been promoted in trade journals. The long term vision was that drivers who had gained the standard would gain a business advantage.

**RESOLVED - That with effect from 1 August 2012 attainment of the Gold Standard will be added to the Council's fit and proper person test for drivers. Any persons making applications for hackney carriage and private hire driver licences after 1 August 2012 will, in addition to the information currently sought, be asked to provide information to show they have attained the Bristol Gold Standard as detailed in paragraph 3 above;**

**PSP**

**21.5/12**

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED - that the next meeting be held on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 10.30 a.m. or on the rise of this Committee and will be a meeting of Sub-Committee A.**

(The meeting ended at 10.45 am.)

CHAIR