

REFERENCE FROM TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE – FUTURE CONSULTATION PROCESS ON TAXI LICENSING; UNION RECOGNITION

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to a request from Transportation Sub-Committee as to whether the Council formally recognise, in addition to NUPE (Unison), other Unions, such as the Transport & General Workers Union (TGWU). The report therefore focuses very much on the ‘principle’ of Union recognition on Council bodies rather than specifically the issue of TGWU involvement in respect of taxis.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the Transportation Sub-Committee meeting of 6th September 2001, Members sought some clarification of the Council’s policy in respect of Union recognition, given the reference from the Taxi Licensing Group in connection with additional advisors, including representation from the TGWU. The matter was therefore referred to this Committee so that this issue could be considered.

3 DETAILED CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The only Council policy on Union recognition applies in a contractual employer/employee situation. In this context the Council recognises Unison as the official Union. In relation to those services contracted out, e.g. leisure, refuse collection, etc., the Council deals directly with the contractor as the employer, e.g. Leisure Connection, Serviceteam, etc. and not with representatives from the contractors’ employees. In relation to advisors on working groups and other bodies, whilst a number of interest groups have been involved, the issue of official recognition of a specific Union has never arisen.
- 3.2 Thus the “recognition” sought by the TGWU within the taxi context can be seen as unique and unlikely to occur in any other arena in the foreseeable future. In the circumstances, therefore, it is felt that there is no reason at this point in time for the Council to change its current policy stance of only officially recognising a Union in an employer/employee context. The question of whether the TGWU should be involved in a taxi context is more about whether Rochford drivers wish to be represented by an official from the TGWU at any meetings they have with the Authority and whether that official can be seen as truly representative of all Rochford drivers.

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- 3.3 If the TGWU is to become involved, it should be at the behest of Rochford drivers, rather than as a result of any official 'recognition' from the District Council.

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 In the employer/employee context the Employment Relations Act 1999 refers to the employer/trade union relationship.

5 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- (1) That in the light of the information outlined above, the Council confirms its current policy of only officially recognising a Union in the contractual employer/employee situation
- (2) That, subject to (1) being agreed, the issue of representation by the TGWU on the Taxi Forum be referred to full Council.

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Background Papers:

None

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