

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Thursday 16th July, 2009 at 6.00pm
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ameson (Chairman)
Councillor K Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Mrs E Blood, Body, Mrs Greenaway, James, Roberts and Ms While-Cooper

Officers

Interim Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), Licensing Officer, Ms K Farrington and Miss K Wilson (Directorate of Law, Property and Human Resources).

Also in attendance

In respect of agenda item 5 – Review of Taxi Testing Manual - Mr P Lloyd, Policy and Compliance Manager (Transport Services).

16 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest from Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

17 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 8th June, 2009, be approved as a correct record and signed.

18 **REVISION OF TAXI TESTING MANUAL**

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on a review of the Taxi Testing Manual.

The Licensing Officer presented the report and introduced Mr Lloyd, Policy and Compliance Manager (Transport Services) who was also in attendance.

Mr Lloyd responded to questions from the Members relating to spare car lights and space saver tyres.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED

That the Licensing Officer be authorised to amend the Taxi Testing Manual to incorporate a recommendation that all taxi drivers carry replacement light bulbs in their vehicle and that, Mr Lloyd, Policy and Compliance Manager (Transport Services) be requested to monitor the concerns raised by members

19

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as indicated below; and in all the circumstances, the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

| <u>Description of Item</u> | <u>Relevant Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A</u> |
|--|---|
| Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr SKRN | 1 |
| Revocation of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA | 1 |
| Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SK | 1 |
| Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NK | 1 |
| Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr AZ | 1 |
| Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr TH | 1 |
| Grant of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers' Licences – Mr AM | 1 |
| Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MHK | 1 |
| Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr NH | 1 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr FK | 1 |
| Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MZ | 1 |
| Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA | 1 |

20 CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was

RESOLVED

That the remaining items of business be considered in the following order:-

Agenda Item numbers 9, 10, 12,13,16,17,18,19,8,11,14 and 15.

21 REVOCATION OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MA

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on the revocation of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MA, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MA was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offences committed. He also informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, given the disqualification from driving for a period of twelve months, the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MA be revoked with immediate effect.

22 RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SK

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr SK, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr SK and his representative, Mr Nasser, were in attendance at the meeting.

It was noted that Mr SK's solicitor had contacted the Licensing Officer to request that the Committee consider deferring the application on the grounds of his non-attendance and to inform her that Mr SK was currently appealing against the decision to suspend his private hire driver's licence due to his conviction.

The Committee considered the information reported and decided to hear the matter in the absence of Mr SK's solicitor.

Mr Nasser responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to Mr SK's offence. Mr SK informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the application made by Mr SK for the renewal of his private hire driver's licence be refused, on the grounds of Mr SK's previous convictions and that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence.

23 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR AZ

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr AZ, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr AZ and his representative, Mr Nasser, were in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence committed. Mr AZ also informed the meeting that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr AZ receive a strong written warning as to his future conduct.

24 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR TH

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr TH, in light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 9 and his breach of condition 2 of his hackney carriage and condition 10 of his private hire drivers' licences as outlined in paragraph 10 of the report submitted.

Mr TH was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence committed and his breach of licences. He also informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr TH be revoked on the grounds of Mr TH's conviction.

Mr TH was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

25 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR NH

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on applications for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made on behalf of Mr NH, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr NH and his representative, were in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offences committed. Mr NH also informed the meeting that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences to Mr NH be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee pending a medical test from the Council's Doctor.

26 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR FK

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made by Mr FK, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr FK was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offences committed. Mr FK also informed the meeting that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, approval be given to the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences to Mr FK for a period of three months.

27 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR MZ

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MZ, in light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr MZ and his representative, Mr Nasser, were in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence committed. Mr MZ also informed the meeting that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr MZ's private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences be suspended for a period of one month.

Mr MZ was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

28 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MA

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MA, in light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 4 and his breach of condition 10 of his private hire driver's licence as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report submitted.

Mr MA was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence committed and his breach of licence. Mr MA also informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr MA receive a strong written warning as to his future conduct.

29 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR SKRN

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made on behalf of Mr SKRN, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr SKRN was not in attendance at the meeting and no explanation as to his non-attendance had been received. Having decided to hear the matter in his absence, it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made on behalf of Mr SKRN be refused, on the grounds that Mr SKRN failed to attend a second medical test, as requested by the Committee and for the offences committed in April, 2008 of making a false statement, as indicated in paragraph 6 of the report submitted.

30 RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR NK

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr NK, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr NK was not in attendance at the meeting and no explanation as to his non-attendance had been received. Having decided to hear the matter in his absence, it was

RESOLVED

That, in view of the non-attendance of Mr NK, further consideration of the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr NK be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

31 GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR AM

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made on behalf of Mr AM, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr AM was not in attendance at the meeting and no explanation as to his non-attendance had been received. Having decided to hear the matter in his absence, it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the application for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences made on behalf of Mr AM be refused, on the grounds that Mr AM had tested positive for cannabis, as indicated in Appendix 1 of the report submitted.

32 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MHK

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence made on behalf of Mr MHK, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MHK was not in attendance at the meeting and no explanation as to his non-attendance had been received.

The Licensing Officer requested that the application be withdrawn as the information as shown in paragraph 6 was incorrect.

RESOLVED

That the application received on behalf of Mr MHK for the grant of a private hire driver's licence be withdrawn given the incorrect information contained in the report submitted.

The meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN