

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21st October, 2009 at 6.00pm
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ameson (Chairman)
Councillor K Turner (Vice-Chairman)
Councillors Attwood, Mrs Blood, Body, Mrs Greenaway, James and J. Martin.

Officers

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

Also in attendance

In respect of agenda item 7 – Review of Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Mr CM - Mr P Lloyd, Policy and Compliance Manager (Transport Services).

58 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Roberts and Ms While-Cooper.

59 **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillor J Martin had been appointed as a substitute member for Councillor Mrs Roberts for this meeting of the Committee only.

60 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

61 **MINUTES**

Arising from consideration of this item it was suggested that a special meeting of the Committee be held in December to consider a backlog of applications.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 9th September, 2009, be approved as a correct record and signed.

62

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>
Review of Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Mr CM	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr KR	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MS	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr MS	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AUR	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr RH	1
Revocation of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr GA	1
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SI	1
Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr IK	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr AS	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MI	1

63 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE – MR CM

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on a request for special dispensation with regard to Mr CM's mechanical test in respect of his private hire vehicle, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr CM, and his wife, was in attendance at the meeting. Also in attendance was Mr Lloyd, Policy and Compliance Manager (Transport Services).

Mr CM and Mr Lloyd responded to questions asked by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the request for special dispensation with regard to the mechanical test in respect to Mr CM's private hire vehicle be refused on the grounds of the vehicle not adhering to the Council's policy.

64 GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR KR

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence made by Mr KR, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr KR, and his representative, was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr KR informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

During the consideration of this matter, in the light of evidence given, concerns were raised regarding Mr KR's use of abusive and foul language to Council Officer's, as indicated in the report submitted.

RESOLVED

1. 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 a hackney carriage driver's licence to Mr KR for a period of three months.

2. That Mr KR write a letter of apology to the Licensing Officer regarding his previous conduct, and that he pay a renewal fee for his licence after the three month period.

65 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR MS

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 MS, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MS was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee.

RESOLVED

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

That given that the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MS were suspended on 1st October 2009, in the interest of public safety, the suspension remain.

66 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR MS

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 MS, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

It was noted that Mr MS's solicitor had contacted the Licensing Officer to request that the Committee consider deferring the application pending another medical test.

RESOLVED

That the review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MS be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee pending a further medical test.

That given that the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences were suspended on 10th September 2009, in the interest of public safety, the licences remain suspended.

67 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 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 11

68 RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR RH

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

Mr RH was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr RH 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 renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr RH for a period of six months with effect from 1st November 2009.

69 REVOCATION OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR GA

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on an application for the revocation of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr GA, in light of the offences committed as indicated in paragraph 13 and his breach of condition 10 of his private hire drivers' licence and condition 2 on his hackney carriage driver's licence as outlined in paragraph 15 of the report submitted.

It was reported that Mr GA had attended the Council House prior to the meeting and had submitted his badges to the Licensing Officer.

RESOLVED

That, given that Mr GA had submitted his badges to the Licensing Officer there was no need for him to attend the meeting and therefore in view of his disqualification for a period of six months his licences be revoked.

70

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SI

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 SI, in light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr SI, together with a representative, was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr SI confirmed that he would be attending an English language course on 23rd October 2009.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, no action be taken on the application made for the grant of a private hire driver's licence and that it be noted that Mr SI would take a further drivers knowledge test in approximately six months and that the fee be waived.

71

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR IK

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

Mr IK was in attendance at the meeting, and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr IK 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 on receipt of a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau check, for the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr IK, and that he receive a strong warning as to his future conduct.

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR AS

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

Mr AS was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr AS 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 for the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr AS, and that he receive a strong warning as to his future conduct.

The Committee thanked Mr AS for his honesty with regard to an incident as indicated in paragraph 8 in the report submitted.

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

A report of the Interim Director of Law, Property and Human Resources was submitted on the review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MI, in light of the offences committed as indicated in paragraph 6 of the report submitted.

Mr MI and his representative were in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr MI 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 MI's private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences be suspended for a period of three months with immediate effect in view of the offences convicted, and in the interest of public safety.

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

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MR

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 MR, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MR was not in attendance 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 MR, further consideration of the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee, and that the right to drive of Mr MR be suspended until such time as this case has been considered.

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR AUR

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 AUR, in light of the offences committed as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

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

RESOLVED

1. That, in view of the non-attendance of Mr AUR, further consideration of the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr AUR be deferred for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee, and that the private hire driver's licence be suspended with immediate effect in view of the offences committed until such time as this case has been considered.
2. That should Mr AUR submit a further application to renew his Private Hire Driver's Licence, this matter be considered by the Committee.

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m.

CHAIRMAN