

## TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.  
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)  
Councillor A. Aston (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors A. Ahmed, Mrs. Ameson, Cowell, Roberts, Taylor and Vickers

### Officers:-

Assistant Director (Law and Governance), Mr T Holder, Solicitor, and Mrs K Taylor (all Directorate of Corporate Resources)

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121. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Hemingsley .

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122. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

It was reported that Councillor J. Martin had been appointed as a substitute for Councillor Hemingsley for this meeting of the Committee only.

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123. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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124. MINUTES

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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125. 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 Nos. 6, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 9

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126. INTRODUCTION OF A “CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SCHEME”

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a customer feedback scheme, which would put the emphasis of good driver practice on the individual driver and the taxi base.

Mrs D Keeley, CSS Consultancy Unit Manager, Directorate of Corporate Resources, was in attendance at the meeting and provided a background and demonstration as to how the customer feedback form was completed and the webpage that highlighted the feedback submitted.

Concerns were raised by Members, in particular, that the current form requested the customers name and address only, and Members suggested that it would be preferred to request an e-mail address and a number for customers to telephone if they did not have an e-mail address.

It was further noted that an automated message could be sent back to the customer to include their reference number and a link in order to view feedback submitted.

RESOLVED

- (1) That approval be given to the introduction of a customer feedback scheme with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2014.
  - (2) That the CSS Consultancy Unit Manager be requested to amend the customer feedback form to include an e-mail address, rather than a home address, and a telephone number, and to arrange for an automated e-mail to be sent to the customer following their submission.
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127. COMPETITION FOR TAXI BASE OF THE YEAR 2014

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on nominations and submissions for the Taxi Base of the Year Competition 2014.

Mr A Mahmood, Hackney Carriage Representative, was in attendance at the meeting, and following a brief discussion and a vote it was

RESOLVED

That Taxi Base of the Year 2014 be awarded to Taximate.

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128. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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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 Driver's Licence – Mr SUH	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr SA	1
Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr RM	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MH	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr TA	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr JR	1
Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr TH	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr KW	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr ARC	1

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129. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SA

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr SA in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr SA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client, and in doing so stated that Mr SA should not have been summoned to the Committee as Mr SA had regularly maintained his vehicle, and the issue could not have been identified by a person who was not a trained mechanic.

Mr Schiller responded to questions raised by the Committee on behalf of Mr SA, and in doing so informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, arising from the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, no further action be taken on the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr SA.

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130. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR RM

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

Mr RM was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr Saleem.

Mr Saleem made representations on behalf of Mr RM, and Mr RM informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, arising from the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, no further action be taken on the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr RM.

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131. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR MH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MH, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr MH was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller and a supporter.

During consideration of this matter, it was noted that the Committee had previously deferred consideration of an offence for which Mr MH had been convicted in August, 2011. This was also considered by the Committee in the presence of the applicant and his Solicitor.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client, and Mr MH informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

- (1) That, arising from 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 MH for a period of twelve months.
- (2) That no further action be taken on the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr MH in respect of the offence for which he had been convicted in August, 2011.

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132. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR TA

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr TA, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr TA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr Hussain, and a supporter.

Mr Hussain made representations on behalf of Mr TA, and Mr TA responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to his failure to operate the taximeter. He 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, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr TA be suspended for a period of two months in the light of his failure to operate the taximeter.

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

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133. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR JR

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr JR, in the light of an offence committed, as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

Mr JR was in attendance, together with a representative and responded to questions raised in connection with the offence committed. Mr JR 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 private hire driver's licence issued to Mr JR be suspended for a period of two months in view of the offence for which he had been convicted.

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

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134. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR TH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr TH, in the light of an offence committed as set out in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

It was noted that Mr TH was not in attendance at the meeting in view of him being in Pakistan.

Arising from consideration of the information submitted, it was:-

#### RESOLVED

That consideration of the renewal of private hire driver's licence issued to Mr TH be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee when he was back in the United Kingdom.

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135. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR KW

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made on behalf of Mr KW for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences. It was noted that Mr KW had failed to undertake his local knowledge test despite being contacted by the Licensing Office on numerous occasions.

Mr KW was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative and supporter.

Mr KW and his supporter responded to questions asked by the Committee, in particular, commenting on the circumstances surrounding his failure to undertake a knowledge test and that since 2010, Mr KW had become a changed person.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED

- (1) That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr KW be given a further opportunity to take his knowledge test within a period of two months.
- (2) That Mr KW be requested to undertake a drugs and alcohol test by the Council's Doctor.
- (3) That consideration of the application made on behalf of Mr KW for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences, be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee pending the outcome of Mr KW's drugs and alcohol test, and the local knowledge test.

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136. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR ARC

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences in respect of Mr ARC.

Mr ARC was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr Saleem.

Mr Saleem made representations on behalf of Mr ARC, and in doing so requested the Committee to give Mr ARC a chance, and suggested granting a three month probationary licence as that licence could be revoked should Mr ARC come before the Committee again, in that time.

Following concerns raised in relation to Mr ARC's history, Mr ARC assured the Committee that he would not attend the Committee again.

During consideration of this matter, Mr ARC requested that the application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence to be withdrawn.

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

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137. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SUH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr SUH, in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr SUH was not in attendance at the meeting and a reason for his absence had

not been received.

In view of this it was

RESOLVED

That consideration of the review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr SUH be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee, and that Mr SUH be informed that should he fail to attend when the matter was to be considered, it may be considered in his absence.

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The meeting ended at 8.10 p.m.

CHAIR