

TAXIS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2014

**AT 5.30 PM
IN COMMITTEE ROOM 3
THE COUNCIL HOUSE
DUDLEY**

If you (or anyone you know) is attending the meeting and requires assistance to access the venue and/or its facilities, could you please contact Democratic Services in advance and we will do our best to help you

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**You can view information about Dudley MBC on
www.dudley.gov.uk**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

MEETINGS IN DUDLEY COUNCIL HOUSE

Welcome to Dudley Council House

In the event of the alarm sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

There is to be no smoking on the premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on these premises.

Please turn off your mobile phones and mobile communication devices during the meeting.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Your ref:

Our ref:
TX/KT

Please ask for:
Mrs K Taylor

Telephone No.
01384 818116

8th April, 2014

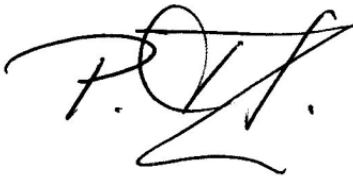
Dear Member

TAXIS COMMITTEE –WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL, 2014.

You are requested to attend a meeting of the Taxis Committee to be held on Wednesday, 16th April, 2014 at 5.30pm in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley, to consider the business set out in the Agenda below.

The agenda and public reports are available on the Council's Website www.dudley.gov.uk and follow the links to Councillors in Dudley and Committee Management Information System.

Yours sincerely



Director of Corporate Resources

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence from the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

To report the appointment of any substitutes for this meeting of the Committee.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive declarations of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 12th March,2014.

5 COMPETITION FOR TAXI BASE OF THE YEAR 2014 (PAGES 1 - 3)

To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources

6 INTRODUCTION OF A CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SCHEME (TO FOLLOW)

To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources

7. TO ANSWER QUESTIONS UNDER COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 11.8 (IF ANY)

PRIVATE SESSION

In accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the Proper Officer has determined that there will be no advance disclosure of the following reports because the public interest in disclosing the information set out in the following items is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure.

8. RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC

To consider the adoption of the following resolution:

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 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as indicated below:-

<u>Agenda Item No.</u>	<u>Description of Item</u>	Relevant Paragraph of Part I of Schedule 12A
9	Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SUH	1
10	Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr SA	1
11	Review of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr RM	1
12	Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr MH	1
13	Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr TA	1

14	Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr JR	1
15	Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr TH	1
16	Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr KW	1
17	Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr ARC	1

9. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SUH (PAGES 4 - 8)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
10. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR SA (PAGES 9 - 12)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
11. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR RM (PAGES 13 - 16)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
12. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR MH (PAGES 17 - 31)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
13. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR TA (PAGES 32 - 35)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
14. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR JR (PAGES 36 - 38)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
15. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR TH (PAGES 39 - 42)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
16. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR KW (PAGES 43 - 46)
To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources
17. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR ARC (PAGES 47 - 52)

To consider a report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Councillors

A. Ahmed
Body
Roberts

Mrs Ameson
Cowell
Taylor

A. Aston
J. Martin (Substitute)
Vickers

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 12th March, 2014 at 5.30 p.m.
in Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

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

Officers:-

Assistant Director (Law and Governance), Mr. M. Hanson, Licensing Clerk and Mr. J. Jablonski (all Directorate of Corporate Resources)

107. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

108. APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBER

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

109. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

110. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 6th February, 2014, be approved as a correct record and signed.

111. 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. S.R.	1
Grant of hackney carriage driver's licence - Mr. M.R.	1
Grant of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences – Mr. M.A.	1
Renewal of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences – Mr. M.H.	1
Renewal of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences - Mr. T.A.	1
Review of private hire driver's licence - Mr. K.H.	1
Review of private hire driver's licence - Mr. W.Y.	1
Grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences - Mr. M.S.	1

112. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES - MR. S.R.

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

Mr. S.R. was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions raised in respect of the offences indicated in the report submitted.

Mr. S.R. 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, approval be given to the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences to Mr. S.R. for a period of six months.

113. GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR. M.R.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr. M.R.

The Authority had been notified that Mr. M.R. was being represented by Mr. Schiller, who unfortunately, was involved in a court case in Croydon and because of this, had requested an adjournment of this hearing.

However, Mr. M.R. was in attendance at the meeting, together with a supporter, Mr. Z. Ali, and it was indicated that he wished to proceed with the hearing in the absence of his solicitor.

Mr. M.R. responded to questions raised by the Committee in respect of the offences indicated in the report submitted, in particular, those for which he had received a conviction resulting in imprisonment on 28th August, 2003. Mr. Ali made representations on behalf of Mr. M.R.

RESOLVED

That, arising from the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, the application submitted on behalf of Mr. M.R. for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence, be refused on the grounds that Mr. M.R. is not a fit and proper person, given the offences that he had committed, as outlined in the report submitted, including offences for which he had been convicted on 28th August, 2003, resulting in concurrent terms of imprisonment.

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

114. GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR. M.A.

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

Mr. M.A. was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative, Mr. D. Khan, who made representations on behalf of Mr. M.A., commenting in particular on the circumstances surrounding the caution received by Mr. M.A. on 12th November, 2008. Mr M.A. also commented on those circumstances. It was also reported that there were no matters pending that needed to be brought to the attention of the Committee.

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 hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences to Mr. M.A. for a period of six months.

115. RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR. M.H.

Mr. M.H. was in attendance at the meeting and it was reported that his solicitor, Mr. Schiller, had requested that the renewal hearing be adjourned in view of his involvement in a court case in Croydon. Mr. M.H. confirmed that he would wish the matter to be adjourned.

RESOLVED

That consideration of the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr. M.H. be adjourned to a future meeting of the Committee.

116. 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. 12, 13, 14 and 11

117. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCE - MR. K.H.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr. K.H. in the light of offences committed as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report submitted. It was noted that Mr. K.H. currently had 9 penalty points endorsed on his DVLA driver's licence and that his latest offence for speeding had occurred after he had received a very strong written warning as to his future conduct arising from previous offences of speeding.

Mr. K.H. was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offences committed. He also informed the Committee that there were no matters pending, that they needed to be made aware of. Mr. K.H. also made representations regarding his personal circumstances.

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. K.H. be suspended for a period of two weeks in the light of the latest speeding offence as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

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

118. REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR. W.Y.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr. W.Y. in the light of an offence committed, as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report submitted. Mr. W.Y. was also in breach of Condition 10 of his private hire driver's licence, as he had not reported the points within the required seven day period.

Mr. W.Y. was in attendance, together with a representative and responded to questions raised in connection with the offence committed. During the course of the questioning, he indicated that there was a matter that needed to be brought to the attention of the Committee and in the light of this information, it was reported that Mr. W.Y.'s licence had recently been suspended in connection with another matter.

RESOLVED

That, in the light of the information reported at the meeting, consideration of the review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr. W.Y. be deferred until the matter referred to leading to the suspension of his licence had been resolved.

119. GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES - MR. M.S.

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. M.S.

Prior to the consideration of this matter, it was reported that a letter had been received from the wife of Mr. M.S. indicating that he was currently in Pakistan for personal reasons and would be returning to this country within eight weeks.

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

RESOLVED

That consideration of the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences to Mr. M.S. be deferred to a future meeting of the committee when he was back in the United Kingdom.

120. RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCES - MR. T.A.

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of the hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences issued to Mr. T.A. in the light of the information contained in the report submitted.

Mr. T.A. 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 renewal of the hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences issued to Mr. T.A. be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee and that Mr. T.A. be informed that should he not attend when the matter was to be considered, it may be considered in his absence.

The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

CHAIR

Taxis Committee – 16th April, 2014

Report of the Director of Corporate Resources

Competition for Taxi Base of the Year 2014

Purpose of Report

1. To consider all nominations and submissions for Taxi Base of the Year Competition 2014.

Background

2. In 2012 the Chair of the Taxis Committee, Councillor Body suggested and discussed with the Leader that a competition be held to find the Taxi Base of the Year and that a presentation be made by the Mayor to the winning base at the full Council meeting.
3. A memento trophy was donated to the Council, however, the donor did not wish their name to be made public.
4. Both Marcoms and the Taxi Focus Group were consulted about this suggestion and representatives were invited to attend the Taxis Committee Meeting on 13th November 2012.
5. Following that meeting the Committee resolved that approval be given to the implementation of an annual competition for the Taxi Base of the Year. The criteria was finalised as follows:-
 - Quality of service, reliability, courteousness and helpfulness
 - Number of drivers attached to a base
 - Examples of outstanding service
 - Helpfulness and politeness of taxi base operator
 - Cleanliness of vehicles inside and out
6. On the 13th March 2013 the taxi Committee considered all nominations and resolved that Castle Cars be awarded Taxi Base of the Year 2013.
7. In February 2014, the second Taxi Base of the Year Competition was launched.

8. The closing date for all nominations and submissions was the 14th March, 2014, all nominations and submissions will be circulated to the Committee Members prior the hearing on the 16th April, 2014.
9. Since July 2014 the number of driver's to have appeared before the Taxis Committee for the **review/renewal** of licence for each **nominated** base is as follow:

Base	Number of Nominations	Referrals to Committee
A1	1	
ABC Taxis	6	1
ABM Taxis	14	1
Adams Taxis	1	
Beacon	8	4
Castle Cars	77	1
County Cars	1	
Express Taxis	25	
Falcon Taxis	4	2
Fastline	2	
Five Star	1	4
Midland Taxis	1	3
Regal Cabs	1	
Star Taxis	10	1
Taxi Mate	1	
Triple 20	14	
Waterfront Cars	3	1

10. This report falls within the Council's responsibility for Taxi and Private Hire Licensing which has a direct link to the Council's key corporate priority that safety matters.

Finance

11. The cost of the publications will be met from the Licensing budget.

Law

12. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 governs the licensing of hackney carriage and private hire.
13. The Town Police Clauses Act 1847 governs the licensing of hackney carriages.

Equality Impact

14. This report takes into account the Council's policy on equal opportunities.

15. The licensing of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage vehicles and drivers will impact on children and young people through their transportation in licensed vehicles.

Recommendation

16. That the Committee consider the nominations and submissions received in respect of the Taxi Base of the Year award 2014.



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DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE RESOURCES

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List of Background Papers