

## **TAXIS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2009, at 6.00 p.m.  
in the Council Chamber and in Committee Room 4,  
at the Council House, Dudley

### **PRESENT:-**

Councillor Mrs Ameson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Mrs E. Blood, Mrs Faulkner, Mrs Greenaway, Roberts, Ryder  
and Taylor.

### **Officers**

Interim Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services), Licensing  
Officer and Mr J Jablonski (Directorate of Law and Property)

### **Also in Attendance**

In respect of Agenda Item 5 – Revision of Licence Fees – Group  
Accountant – Support Services and representatives of the Taxi Drivers  
Focus Group and other Taxi Drivers.

- In connection with Agenda Item 6 – Introduction of a Road Passenger  
Vehicle Driving NVQ (level 2 ) course in Partnership with Dudley College  
– Mr T Guy – Business Development Manager, Dudley College and Mr B.  
Shiple and Mr T. Trickett – Enforcement Officers (Directorate of Law and  
Property).

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### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of  
Councillors Attwood, Body, James and While-Cooper

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### **APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

It was noted that Councillors Ryder and Taylor had been appointed as  
substitute members for Councillors Attwood and James respectively, for  
this meeting of the Committee only.

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### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

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MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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CHANGE IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

RESOLVED

That, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13(c), agenda item 6 – Introduction of a Road Passenger Vehicle Driving NVQ (level 2) course in Partnership with Dudley College – be considered as the next item of business.

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INTRODUCTION OF A ROAD PASSENGER VEHICLE DRIVING NVQ LEVEL 2 COURSE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH DUDLEY COLLEGE

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on the Introduction of an NVQ (level 2) course in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving to be offered to private hire and hackney carriage drivers in the borough.

In her presentation of the content of the report the Licensing Officer reported that an approved list of practitioners could be reported on to the next meeting of the Committee together with proposals that attendance on the course be a condition of licence.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the information contained in the report, and Appendix 1 to the report, submitted on the introduction of an NVQ (level 2) course in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving to be offered to private hire and hackney carriage drivers in the borough, be noted.
  - (2) That the Licensing Officer be requested to arrange for a report to be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee in respect of an approved list of practitioners and wording regarding the making of attendance on the course a condition of licence.
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REVISION OF LICENCE FEES

A joint report of the Interim Director of Law and Property and the Director of Finance was submitted on the proposed revision of fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences administered by the Committee.

Arising from the presentation of the report by the Interim Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) the Chairman invited responses from the representatives of the Taxi Drivers Focus Group and from other taxi drivers present and in response various persons made representations to the effect that they would wish to see no increase in the fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences for 2009/10.

Specific questions were also asked and responded to by the Group Accountant – Support Services.

Arising from consideration of the representations made, it was

## RESOLVED

That approval be given to an increase in respect of the fees for private hire and hackney carriage licences, as set out in Table A of the report submitted, of 5%, indicated in the report submitted as Option 4.

(At the conclusion of this item there was a brief adjournment during which members of the Committee retired from the Council Chamber to reconvene the meeting in Committee Room 4.)

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>
Revocation of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr F H	1

Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr G S	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr M R	1
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr A H S	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr H U R	1
Review of Private Hire Driver and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr M M	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr M S	1

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REVOCATION OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE  
DRIVERS' LICENCES MR F H

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on the revocation of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences issued to Mr F H in the light of the information indicated in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the report submitted.

Mr F H was in attendance at the meeting and advised that as he had been disqualified from driving for a period of six months due to the totting up procedure he could not apply for private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences until he had been driving for six months. Also, should he wish to apply for those licences after that period, any such applications would be determined by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That, given the disqualification from driving for a period of six months due to the totting up procedure, the hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences issued to Mr F H be revoked.

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GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR G S

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made on behalf of Mr G S for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence.

Mr G S, and his representative, was in attendance at the meeting and in response to questions asked by the Committee informed them of the reasons for his non attendance at the meeting of the Committee held on 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2009. Mr G S also informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence to Mr G S for a period of three months from the date of this meeting

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155      RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES – MR M R

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on the renewal of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr M R in the light of his non attendance at two previous meetings of the Committee.

Mr M R was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee of his reasons for non attendance at the two previous meetings. Mr M R also informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they need 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 M R with effect from 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2009.

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156      GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR A H S

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made for the grant of a private hire driver's licence on behalf of Mr A H S in the light of a number of disclosures on his Criminal Records Bureau Report.

Mr A H S was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, and they outlined the circumstances of the entries on that report referred to in paragraph 3 of the report submitted. In response to questions asked by the Committee Mr A H S 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 application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence made on behalf of Mr A H S be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person because of the disclosures on his Criminal Records Bureau Report, as indicated in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

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

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REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR H U R

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr H U R in the light of an offence that he had committed and a breach of condition 10 of his private hire driver's licence.

Mr H U R was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in respect of the offence and breach of condition of licence. Mr. H U R also informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that need to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

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

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

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on a review of the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr M M in the light of an offence for which he had been convicted as indicated in paragraph 7 of the report submitted.

Mr M M was in attendance at the meeting and was accompanied by Councillor Hanif. In response to questions asked by the Committee, Councillor Hanif and Mr M M outlined the circumstances relating to the offence committed and reported that there were no matters pending that the Committee 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 M M be suspended for a period of three months and that he be informed that should he commit another offence of plying for hire in the future it was likely that his licences would be revoked.

That, in view of the nature of the offences committed, those of plying for hire and having no insurance, offences compromising public safety, the private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences issued to Mr M M be withdrawn with immediate effect in accordance with Section 61 2 (B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976.

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

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## REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR M S

A report of the Interim Director of Law and Property was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr M S in the light of a caution that he had received as indicated in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr M S was in attendance at the meeting and, arising from consideration of this matter, a copy of the caution notice referred to in paragraph 4 of the report submitted was circulated at the meeting. Mr M S referred to the circumstances given rise to the caution, arising from questions asked by the Committee, and 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 as reported at the meeting, Mr M S receive a strong written warning as to his future conduct.

The meeting ended at 7.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN