

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 6th April 2005 at 4.00 pm
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Musk (Chairman)
Councillor Ameson (Vice Chairman)
Councillors Mrs Aston, Cotterill, Mrs Patrick (attended from 6.00pm)
Tomkinson, Turner and Wright

Officers

Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services
Mrs J Holland and Mrs K Farrington – Directorate of Law and Property
Ms P Sharratt (Assistant Director of Social Services, Children and Families) and Ms C Ballinger (Area Manager Assessment, Children and Families) - Directorate of Social Services.

144

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 16th March 2005, be approved as a correct record and signed.

145

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

146

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

147

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, namely:-

Agenda item numbers 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 9, 5, 11, 14, 16 and 15.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, 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 Schedule 12A to the Act, in particular the paragraph of Part 1 of that Schedule indicated below:-

<u>Description of Item</u>	<u>Relevant Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A</u>
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences - Mr SS	4
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr HZ	4
Renewal of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr AA	4
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr AR	4
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr HB	4
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence - Mr AM	4
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr MJ	4
Grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licences - Mr SS	4
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr NA	4

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCES - MR SS

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr SS for the grant of a private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences.

Mr SS was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative and responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr SS also informed the Committee that there were no other matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

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

150 RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR AA

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the renewal of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr AA in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted as indicated in paragraph 2.2 of the report submitted.

Mr AA was not in attendance at the meeting.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the non-attendance of Mr AA, determination of this application was deferred because Mr AA was abroad, but will be heard at the next committee meeting following his return.

151 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR HB

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr HB for the grant of a private hire driver's licence.

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

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, approval be given to the grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr HB for a period of three months from the date of this meeting.

152 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR AM

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AM in the light of the offences for which he had been convicted, as indicated in paragraph 2.2 of the report submitted.

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

RESOLVED

That, approval be given to the renewal of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AM from 30th March 2005, and that he receive a strong written warning as to his future conduct in view of the offences for which he had been convicted as indicated in the report submitted.

153

GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR HZ

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr HZ for the grant of a private hire driver's licence.

Mr HZ was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, who responded to questions asked by the Committee. Mr HZ also informed the Committee that there were no other matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence made by Mr HZ be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence given the offences for which he had been convicted.

154

DUDLEY SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD AND THE
IMPLICATIONS OF THE BICHARD ENQUIRY

Ms Sharratt and Ms Ballinger of the Directorate of Social Services outlined new government legislation following the Bichard Enquiry, and in particular reported on the setting up of the Dudley Area Children's Safeguarding Board that would be launched on 22nd April 2005. Consultations would take place with members of the public by way of Area Forums on the central issue of how children can be protected.

Following a wide-ranging discussion on the impact of IT systems, Criminal Record Bureau checks for staff and risk assessments, it was

RESOLVED

That Ms Sharratt and Ms Ballinger be thanked for an interesting and informative presentation and that they be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee to update Members on the operation of the Board.

155 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - MR AR

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr AR in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted, as indicated in paragraph 2.5 of the report submitted.

Mr AR was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence for which he had been convicted. Mr AR also informed the Committee that there were no other matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, having considered the information contained in the report submitted and the representations made at the meeting, Mr AR's private hire driver's licence be suspended for a period of one month from the date of the meeting in the light of his driving record.

156 REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MJ

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MJ in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted, as indicated in paragraph 2.2 of the report submitted.

Mr MJ was in attendance at the meeting together with his Solicitor who responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence committed. Mr AM also informed the Committee that there were no other matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That further consideration of this matter be deferred to enable the Licensing Officer to obtain further information from the Directorate of Social Services and that the matter be heard at the next committee meeting following receipt of the information.

157 GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR NA

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr NA for the grant of a private hire driver's licence.

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

RESOLVED

That consideration of the application made by Mr NA for the grant of a private hire driver's licence be deferred pending the receipt of a medical report.

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

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application made by Mr SS for the grant of private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences.

Mr SS was not in attendance at the meeting.

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 by Mr SS be refused on the grounds that he is not a fit and proper person to hold either a hackney carriage or a private hire driver's licence.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm.

CHAIRMAN