

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 24th April, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.
In Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)
Councillor A Aston (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Ahmed, Mrs Aston, Cowell, Sykes, Taylor, K Turner and Vickers

Officers:-

Mr T Holder, Ms N Bangar and Mrs M Johal (all Directorate of Corporate Resources).

138 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Ameson and Mrs Simms.

139 APPOINTMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

It was reported that Councillors Taylor and Vickers had been appointed as substitute members for Councillors Mrs Ameson and Mrs Simms for this meeting only.

140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

141 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th March, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

142 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 1 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>
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr SB	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1
Renewal of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr RH	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licences – Mr AA	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr KH	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr GH	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licences – Mr MF	1

143

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 7, 10, 9, 11, 13, 12 and 8.

144

RENEWAL OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on the renewal of hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences issued to Mr SB.

Mr SB was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mrs Paul. Sergeant Hall and Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Bell, West Midlands Police and Mr Trickett, Licensing Enforcement Officer were also in attendance.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and also questioned the Police Officers in attendance about the statements that had been made by them regarding the allegation. In particular reference was made to the statement made by PCSO Bell being made three months after the incident and pointed out that the pocket book used by PCSO Bell on which she had based her statement was not available for inspection.

Mr SB 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 renewal of the hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences issued to Mr SB and suspended for a period of three months in the light of the incidents referred to in the report submitted.

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

145

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES

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

Mr AA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mrs Paul.

Mrs Paul made representations on behalf of her client and in doing so commented on the circumstances surrounding his conviction and family background.

Mr AA 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 private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences to Mr AA for a period of three months, and that any future renewals be dealt with by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, under delegated powers, provided that Mr AA had no offences or matters pending at the time of renewal.

146

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the renewal of private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences in respect of Mr RH.

Mr RH was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That approval be given to the renewal of private hire and hackney carriage driver's licences to Mr RH for a period of six months with effect from 12th March, 2013, and that any future renewals be dealt with by the Assistant Director of Law and Governance, under delegated powers, provided that Mr RH had no offences or matters pending at the time of renewal.

147

REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr KH.

Mr KH was in attendance at the meeting and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be made aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, and as reported at the meeting, Mr KH receive a very strong warning as to his future conduct in the light of the offences committed.

148

GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCES

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

Mr MF was in attendance at the meeting and 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 hackney carriage and private hire driver's licences to Mr MF for a period of twelve months.

149

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH.

Ms Bangar reported that Mr GH had submitted a letter requesting a deferment, as his representative could not attend.

RESOLVED

That the review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR.

Mr MR was not in attendance at the meeting and a reason for absence had not been received.

Having decided to hear the matter in the absence of Mr MR, it was

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the incident referred to.

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

CHAIR