

TAXIS COMMITTEE

Thursday 20th March, 2008 at 6.00 p.m.
in Committee Room 4 at the Council House, Dudley

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs Ameson (in the Chair)
Councillors Mrs. Blood, Mrs. Collins, Mrs Faulkner, Hill, Tomkinson, A.
Turner and While-Cooper

Officers

Assistant Director (Legal and Democratic Services) and Mr P T Furidze
(Directorate of Law and Property).

143 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

144 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

145 MINUTES

RESOLVED

That, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13th
February, 2008, be approved as a correct record and signed.

146 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

A report of the Director of Law and Property as submitted on the review of
hackney carriage fares.

Following careful consideration of the information submitted at the
meeting, including concerns raised and representations received from the
Dudley Taxi Alliance, it was,

RESOLVED

That, the request for an increase in hackney carriage fares, as
set out in Appendix 2 of the report submitted, be approved.

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>
Review of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licence – Mr IS	1
Grant of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licence – Mr IH	1
Grant of Private Hire Drivers' Licence – Mr SK	1
Review of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licence – Mr MA	1
Renewal of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licence – Mr MA	1
Renewal of Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr SS	1
Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AH	1

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCE – MR IS

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on the review of the private hire /hackney driver's licence issued to Mr IS in the light of a customer complaint, about Mr IS, referred to in paragraph 34 of the report submitted.

It was noted that the complainant was not in attendance and had indicated that she was unwilling to attend the meeting to pursue the matter.

Mr IS, together with his solicitor, was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee, with particular reference to the complaint and informed the Committee that there were no matters pending that they needed to be aware of.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the absence of the complainant, no action was taken in respect of the allegation. However, Mr IS was informed that should there be further serious allegations brought against Mr IS that were found to be proved, Mr IS would be at serious risk of losing his private hire/hackney carriage licence.

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GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCE – MR IH

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence made by Mr IH in the light of his conviction contained in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

Mr IH, together with a supporter, was in attendance at the meeting and in responding to questions asked by the Committee relating to the information contained in the report submitted, informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be aware of.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the serious nature of Mr IH's conviction, the application for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence, be refused.

That, the Committee was prepared to consider an application for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence from Mr IH, after a further period of 12 months had elapsed.

That, a future application for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence from Mr IH, be accompanied by references from his employer or employers at that time.

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

150

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' LICENCE – MR SK

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence by Mr SK in the light of a complaint against him outlined in paragraph 43 of the report submitted.

Mr SK, together with a supporter, was in attendance at the meeting, and in responding to questions asked by the Committee regarding the offence committed informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be aware of.

RESOLVED

That, the application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence by Mr SK, be refused.

That, in view of the serious nature of the incident as a whole, and in particular driving an unlicensed and uninsured vehicle on a home to school contract in disregard of public safety; Mr SK was not a fit and proper person.

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

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REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCE – MR MA and RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS' LICENCE – MR MA

The Committee noted that Mr MA and his brother, also MA, had matters due before the Committee arising out of the same set of facts. The two brothers were asked whether they had any objection in their matters being considered at the same time and they indicated that they did not.

Reports of the Director of Law and Property were submitted on the review of Mr MA's private hire and hackney carriage drivers' licences and the renewal of Mr MA's private hire/hackney carriage drivers' licences, in the light of convictions outlined at paragraph 8 and 3, respectively, of the reports submitted.

The two Mr MA were in attendance at the meeting and in responding to questions asked by the Committee regarding the offences committed informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be aware of.

RESOLVED

That, following review of the first Mr MA's private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence, Mr MA be issued with a strong warning as to his future conduct.

That, following consideration of the second Mr MA's application for the renewal of a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence, Mr MA be issued with a strong warning as to his future conduct and his private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence, be renewed.

RENEWAL OF PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCES MR SS

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application for the renewal of the private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr SS in the light of the conviction referred to in paragraph 3 of the report submitted.

Mr SS, together with his solicitor, was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee and in doing so 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 and as reported at the meeting, Mr SS's private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence, be renewed for 12 months with effect from 1st October 2007.

That, prior to the expiration of the licence on 30th September 2008, a further medical report from Dr. O'Connell be submitted and that if the report is satisfactory, Mr SS's further application for renewal of his private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence, be determined under delegated powers without the need to attend at Committee.

GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR AH

A report of the Director of Law and Property was submitted on an application by Mr AH for the grant of a private hire drivers' licence in light of the convictions referred to in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr AH, together with a supporter, was in attendance at the meeting, and in responding to questions asked by the Committee regarding the offences committed informed them that there were no matters pending that they needed to be aware of.

RESOLVED

That, in view of the serious nature and convictions for the series of offences outlined in the report submitted, Mr AH's application for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage drivers' licence, be refused.

That, the Committee was prepared to consider an application for the grant of a private hire/hackney carriage driver's licence from Mr AH, after a further period of 6 months had elapsed.

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

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DRIVER WATCH AND DRIVER AWARDS

A member reported that, on 13th March 2008, the Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services, had considered and passed a resolution for those Council service areas operating vehicle fleets to trial the Driver Watch scheme. The Taxis Committee was urged to endorse the scheme and invite the Borough's Taxi drivers to join the scheme run by the West Midlands Police.

On a related matter, Members of the Committee discussed the possibility of reviving awards to the Borough's taxi drivers.

RESOLVED

That, a letter in support of the Driver Watch scheme, be written to the Taxi Focus Group in order to obtain their approval of the scheme, prior to approaching the Base Operators.

That, the issue of reviving taxi driver awards, be referred to the Taxi Focus Group.

The meeting ended at 8.35 pm

CHAIRMAN