

Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Thursday 10th October, 2019 at 6.10 p.m.
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Present:-

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Aston, H Bills, R Body, B Challenor, J Cowell, E Lawrence and C Neale.

Officers:-

S Smith – Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Place Directorate); T Holder - Solicitor and H Shepherd - Democratic Services Officer (Chief Executive's Directorate)

28 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

29 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8th August, 2019, be approved as a correct record and signed.

30 **Review of Privacy Glass/Tint Policy**

The Committee considered a report of the Strategic Director Place on the Council's policy implemented on 11th October, 2018 with regard to the levels of Visual Light Transmittance (VLT) allowed in licensed vehicles.

Arising from a question raised, the Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) stated that an increase in the number of vehicles presented with a higher level of VLR than specified, had not been reported and that the Licensing Team utilised the industry guidelines to assist with identifying tinted and safety glass that had been installed during manufacturing and at the time of registration.

During deliberations, Members considered it to be unnecessary for the policy to be reviewed on an annual basis and suggested that it be considered by the Committee only if/when there was a change in law or circumstances.

Resolved

- (1) That the information contained in the report submitted, be noted.
 - (2) That the Council's Policy relating to the levels of Visual Light Transmittance (VLT) for licensed vehicles, remain unchanged and be reviewed by the Taxis Committee if/when there is a change in law or circumstances.
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31 **Exclusion of the Public**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

32 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr FH**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted to consider a review of the private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr FH.

Mr FH was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offence.

Mr FH confirmed that there were no other matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

Resolved

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

33 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr JK**

A report of the Strategic Director Place was submitted to consider an application for the grant of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence on behalf of Mr JK.

Mr JK was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr S Saleem.

Mr Saleem made representations on behalf of Mr JK, and in doing so, referred to the circumstances of the offences committed and commented that the Committee had previously granted Mr JK's sibling a licence even though he had also been involved in the first offence reported.

Mr Saleem responded to questions asked by the Committee and confirmed that Mr JK had no other matters pending that needed to be brought to their attention.

Resolved

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the application for grant of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence be refused, as he is not deemed to be a fit and proper person at this time, in light of the nature of the convictions and the last offence being only a short time ago.

Mr JK was advised of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.45pm

CHAIR