

## TAXIS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2013 at 5.30 p.m.  
In Committee Room 3 at the Council House, Dudley

### PRESENT:-

Councillor Body (Chair)  
Councillor A Aston (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors A Ahmed, Mrs Ameson, M. Aston, Mrs Simms, Sykes and K Turner

### Officers:-

Mr T Holder, Ms N Bangar, Mrs K Taylor and Miss L Taylor (observer) (all Directorate of Corporate Resources).

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151            APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

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

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152            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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153            MINUTES

Arising from consideration of this item, Councillor K Turner referred to a question raised at the previous meeting of the Committee, and noted that this had not been included in the minutes. Mr Holder responded that verbatim comments were not recorded in the minutes for this Committee. Councillor Turner made reference to the constitution and stated that he would raise the issue at Full Council.

In response to a further question raised it was noted that consideration would be given to changing the name of the Dudley Council competition 'Taxi Base of the Year'.

### RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 24<sup>th</sup> April, 2013, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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## 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>
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr AS	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1
Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences – Mr NH	1
Grant of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr NH	1
Review of Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr GH	1
Review of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR	1

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR AS

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AS in the light of a complaint received.

Mr AS, together with a supporter, and Mr B, Complainant, were in attendance at the meeting.

In responding to a question from Mr Holder, Mr B confirmed that he was content with the statement provided and that the group had arrived at the destination at 01.28 hrs.

All parties responded to questions asked by the Committee, and arising from questions asked, concerns were raised in respect of Mr AS failure to operate the meter regardless whether the fare was pre-booked.

Mr AS 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 hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr AS be suspended for a period of three months in the light of the incident referred to.

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

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156

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 12, 9, 10, 8 and 11.

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157

REVIEW OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MR

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

Mr MR was in attendance at the meeting.

It was noted that this matter had been considered by the Committee at the previous meeting in the absence of Mr MR, and that it had been resolved that 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. Mr Holder informed the Committee that the letter inviting Mr MR to the Committee had been delivered to his previous address, and therefore he had no knowledge that the matter was being considered at the Committee.

In response to questions asked by the Committee, Mr MR confirmed that he did not contest the suspension agreed by the Committee.

RESOLVED

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted and as reported at the meeting, the private hire driver's licence issued to Mr MR be suspended for a period of one month from 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2013, in the light of the incident referred to.

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

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of hackney carriage and private hire drivers' licences in the light of the comments made in paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

Mr NH 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 drivers' licences to Mr NH for a period of twelve months.

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159                    GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR NH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr NH.

Mr NH, was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client in particular commenting on the circumstances surrounding Mr NH's convictions for plying for hire and having no insurance on two occasions.

Mr Schiller responded to questions asked by the Committee, and in doing so informed them that Mr NH did not have any 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, the application for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr NH be refused on the grounds that the Committee did not consider Mr NH to be a fit and proper person in the light of him being convicted of plying for hire on two separate occasions.

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

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160

GRANT OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR MR

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on an application made for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence in respect of Mr MR, in the light of his failure to produce a medical certificate on several occasions.

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 his absence it was

RESOLVED

That Mr MR be given a further opportunity to submit his medical certificate and that should he fail to do so within one month he be required to re-apply for the grant of a hackney carriage driver's licence.

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161

REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE – MR GH

A report of the Director of Corporate Resources was submitted on a review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH, in the light of the offence committed as indicated in paragraph 18 of the report submitted.

Mr GH, was in attendance at the meeting, together with his Solicitor, Mr Schiller.

Mr Schiller made representations on behalf of his client in particular commenting on the circumstances surrounding the offence.

During consideration of this matter, it was noted that Mr GH had attended the Committee in October, 2012 following a complaint received in respect of his driving. Concerns were raised whether Mr GH had reported his pending conviction given this offence would have occurred prior to the Committee in October.

Mr Schiller responded to questions asked by the Committee, and Mr GH informed the Committee that he did not have any 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 hackney

carriage driver's licence issued to Mr GH be suspended for a period of one month in the light of the offence for which he had been convicted.

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

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162

COMMENTS OF THE CHAIR

The Chair informed the Committee that he would be meeting with Chairs of other Taxi Committees to discuss a scheme to place on the front doors of taxi vehicles a badge containing the emblem of the Local Authority in which they were registered.

The meeting ended at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIR