

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
TAXI LICENSING COMMITTEE
HELD AT THE TOWN HALL NELSON
ON 16th JUNE 2011**

PRESENT -

Councillor P. McCormick (Chairman – in the chair)

Councillors

*D. Clegg
M. Horsfield
M. Iqbal
J. Purcell
G. Roach
K. Shore*

◆◆◆◆

The following persons attended and spoke at the meeting on the items indicated –

| | | |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Mohammed Saghir Mr. Akram Mr. Ilyas Mr. Saeed</i> | <i>Penalty Points Scheme</i> | <i>Minute No. 4</i> |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|

| | | |
|--|---|---------------------|
| <i>Mohammed Saghir Mr. Akram Mr. Ilyas Mr. Saeed</i> | <i>Standard of Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles</i> | <i>Minute No. 5</i> |
|--|---|---------------------|

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members were reminded of the requirements of the Member Code of Conduct concerning the Declaration of Interests.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED

That Councillor G. Roach be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the municipal year 2011/12.

3. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(1) Mr Saghir asked where they were supposed to pick up and drop off people in the Town Centre. He explained that since the car parking on Manchester Road had been redesigned, no space had been incorporated for Hackney Carriages and Private hire vehicle to pickup/ drop off

customers. Mr Saghir explained that on a number of occasions he had to park in the disabled bays.

The Chairman explained that it had been agreed at the consultative meeting that a member of Lancashire County Council's Highway Department be invited to a future meeting of this committee to address the concerns of the trade regarding the lack of taxi ranks within Manchester/ Leeds Road.

(2) Mr Akram informed the committee of a number of Hackney Carriage Vehicles that were leaving their trading names on the vehicles after being used as Private Hire Vehicles.

The Taxi Licensing Manager explained that they were aware of the issue.

(3) A complaint was raised regarding Private Hire drivers plying for business outside pubs and clubs at the weekends.

The Taxi Licensing Enforcement Officer reported that this was a problem across the Borough and letters had gone out to the trade explaining that drivers/operators would be prosecuted if caught plying for business outside pubs.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the proceedings of this Committee at the meeting held on 10th March, 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. PENALTY POINTS SCHEME

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted, for information a report regarding details of penalty points which had been imposed since the last meeting.

RESOLVED

That a report be submitted to the next meeting regarding the cessation of the penalty point scheme.

5. STANDARD OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES

The Engineering and Special Projects submitted a report which outlined a number of options that would target the operators/ owners who are not keeping their vehicles up to standard. It was reported that all vehicles were tested by one of the Council's appointed garages once a year if they are less than three years old and twice a year for any vehicles older than that. The test was more stringent than a MOT test and vehicles have to comply with the Council's vehicle standards. Some operators/ owners were still using the taxi test as a fault finding exercise and not carrying out any checks in between test, this was clearly evident when evening spot checks were carried out with the Police and the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency (VOSA).

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive be recommended to change the Policy as follows:-

- (1) No age limit for licensed vehicles.
- (2) A vehicle is taken off the road if it fails on two or more occasions the taxi test, spot check or school spot check with one or more serious faults. Serious faults would be steering and suspension, braking system and tyres/wheels.
- (3) That consideration be given to increasing the number of tests per year should the no age limit recommendation be approved.

REASON

To improve the standard of licensed vehicles within the Borough.

6. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That in pursuance of the power contained in Section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the next item of business on the ground that if a member of the public and press were present during consideration of the item, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person.

7. INTERVIEWS

- (1) Robertas Blazonis

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Blazonis

RESOLVED

That Mr Blazonis application for a private hire driver's license be refused.

- (3) Waheed Iqbal

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Iqbal.

RESOLVED

That Mr. Iqbal continues to hold his licence but 6 penalty points be imposed and Mr Iqbal be sent on a speed awareness course.

- (4) Tariq Mahmood

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Mahmood

RESOLVED

That Mr. Mahmoods private hire and hackney carriage drivers licence be revoked.

(5) Zafar Iqbal

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Iqbal

RESOLVED

That Mr. Iqbal continue to hold his licence but 12 penalty points be imposed on his record.

(6) Manzoor Ahmed Qureshi Hashmi

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Hashmi

RESOLVED

That Mr. Hashmi continue to hold his licence but 12 penalty points be imposed on his record.

(7) Mohammed Shafiq Latif

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Latif

RESOLVED

That Mr. Lafits' application for a private hire driver's licence be refused.

(8) Nazim Ghafoor

The Engineering and Special Projects Manager submitted a report in respect of Mr. Ghafoor

RESOLVED

That Mr. Ghafoors' application for a private hire driver's licence be refused.