
Chief Executive's Office

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Date: 26 May 2006

Chief Executive: Donna Hall

Chorley
Borough Council

Town Hall
Market Street
Chorley
Lancashire
PR7 1DP

Dear Councillor

Licensing and Safety Committee - Wednesday, 7th June 2006

You are invited to attend a meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee to be held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Chorley on Wednesday, 7th June 2006 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Would all members please note there will be a short refresher session for members of the Committee on the licensing legislation at the start of the meeting by Clair Hallwood the Deputy Director of Legal Services.

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for absence**

2. **Declarations of Any Interests**

Members of the Committee are reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Members Code of Conduct. If the personal interest is a prejudicial interest, then the individual Member should not participate in a discussion on the matter and must withdraw from the Council Chamber and not seek to influence a decision on the matter.

3. **Minutes (Pages 1 - 6)**

To confirm as a correct record the minutes of the meetings of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 8 March and 20 April 2006 (enclosed)

4. **Licensing Liaison Panel (Pages 7 - 10)**

To receive the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Liaison Panel held on 27 March 2006 (enclosed)

5. **Licensing and Registration - Licenses issued from 15 February 2006 to 12 May 2006 (Pages 11 - 14)**

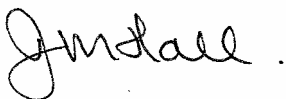
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)

Continued....

6. **Stretched limousines - Exception to licence condition regarding colour (Pages 15 - 16)**
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)
7. **Vocational Training for Hackney/Private Hire Drivers (Pages 17 - 20)**
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)
8. **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

To consider the exclusion of the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.
9. **Application for License to Drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley Mr A S (Pages 21 - 22)**
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)
10. **Private Hire Driver - Suspension of Licence (Pages 23 - 24)**
Report of Chief Executive (enclosed)
11. **Any other item(s) that the Chair decides is/are urgent**

Yours sincerely



Chief Executive

Distribution

1. Agenda and reports to all Members of the Licensing and Safety Committee (Councillor Mrs Iris Smith (Chair), Councillor Edward Smith (Vice-Chair), Councillors Thomas Bedford, Magda Cullens, David Dickinson, Doreen Dickinson, Anthony Gee, Daniel Gee, Keith Iddon, Hasina Khan, Margaret Lees, Marion Lowe, Thomas McGowan, Shaun Smith, Ralph Snape, John Walker and Mrs Stella Walsh) for attendance.
2. Agenda and reports to Claire Hallwood (Deputy Director of Legal Services), Howard Bee (Licensing Manager), Janet Brereton (Legal Assistant (Licensing and Registration)), Keith Ogden (Enforcement Officer) and Gordon Bankes (Democratic Services Officer) for attendance.

This information can be made available to you in larger print or on audio tape, or translated into your own language. Please telephone 01257 515118 to access this service.

આ માહિતીનો અનુવાદ આપની પોતાની ભાષામાં કરી શકાય છે. આ સેવા સરળતાથી મેળવવા માટે કૃપા કરી, આ નંબર પર ફોન કરો: 01257 515822

ان معلومات کا ترجمہ آپ کی اپنی زبان میں بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ یہ خدمت استعمال کرنے کیلئے براہ مہربانی اس نمبر پر ٹیلیفون کیجئے: 01257 515823

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Licensing and Safety Committee**Wednesday, 8 March 2006**

Present: Councillor R Snape (Chair), Councillor Miss M Iddon (Vice-Chair) and Councillors T Bedford, D Dickinson Mrs, D Dickinson, A Gee, T Gray, M Lees, L Lennox, T McGowan, Mrs I Smith, E Smith, J Walker and Mrs S Walsh

06.LS.10 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Hoyle.

06.LS.11 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

The under mentioned Member declared a personal/prejudicial interest in relation to the report indicated below on the meeting's agenda for consideration.

Councillor Mrs Dickinson Item 13 Application for Private Hire Driver's Licence Mr PSAH.

06.LS.12 MINUTES

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 11 January 2006 be received as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

06.LS.13 ANNUAL REVIEW OF LICENCE FEES

RESOLVED - That this item be deferred to the Special Meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee to be held on 4 April 2006.

06.LS.14 LICENSING AND REGISTRATION - LICENSES ISSUED FROM 12 NOVEMBER 2005 TO 14 FEBRUARY 2006

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services on the various licences and permits issued and the registrations affected by the Licensing Section since the last ordinary meeting.

RESOLVED - That the report be noted.

06.LS.15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of the business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

06.LS.16 USE OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES WITHOUT INSURANCE

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services bringing to the attention of Members information that a private hire vehicle may have been used without insurance on 15 January 2006.

Representations received at the meeting by the applicant's legal representative indicated that the licensed private hire driver/proprietor of the private hire vehicle, was out of this Country for at least another two months.

RESOLVED - (1) That because of the seriousness of the allegation, in his absence his private hire drivers licence and hackney carriage drivers licence be revoked on the grounds that the Committee considered that he as not a fit and proper person to hold these licences.

(2) That the Committee considered the human rights implications and the proportionality principle and were of the view that the protection of the public was of paramount importance.

06.LS.17 HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER MR A S - FAILURE TO DISCLOSE INFORMATION

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services informing the Committee that information had been received by officer's about a licensed hackney carriage driver.

The information received indicated that the driver licensed by a neighbouring authority had been suspended from driving hackney carriage within the area of that authority and that this information had not been disclosed to officers of this Council.

The report indicated that the Council's application form fails to ask if a licence had been suspended even though reference is made to a refusal or revocation of a licence. Application forms have since been amended to include suspension.

RESOLVED - That the licensed hackney carriage driver be allowed to continue to drive in Chorley but he be sent a warning letter that he must charge only the current tariff agreed by Chorley Borough Council.

06.LS.18 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGES/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES WITHIN CHORLEY - MR A.J.M

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services on an application received for Mr AJM for a licence to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles. Information had been received from both the Criminal Records Bureau and his DVLA licence had revealed information that required referral to this Committee for attention.

The applicant attended the meeting to put forward representations in support of his application and the Committee carefully considered the representations made.

RESOLVED - That a private hire drivers licence be granted to Mr AJM but to stress to him that his conduct must be exemplary.

06.LS.19 APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE - MR K.S

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services on an application submitted by Mr KS for the grant of a private hire drivers' licence. The applicant had produced a DVLA licence issued on 26 January 2005 but had failed to provide any proof of any driver experience prior to this.

In 1996 the Council adopted a policy which required applicants for private hire drivers licence to be over 21 years of age and have three years of experience driving under a full licence.

It had not been possible to satisfy officers that the applicant had the necessary driving experience and therefore the application had to be determined by the Committee.

The applicant along with his legal representative attended the meeting to put forward representations in support of his application. Representations made at the Committee indicated that the applicant had received the necessary driving experience in Pakistan.

RESOLVED - That a private hire drivers licence be granted to Mr KS for a probationary period of six months, subject to him passing the current knowledge test and should there be any concern or complaints raised during this period then a licence be issued for a further six months.

06.LS.20 APPLICATION FOR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENSE - CONVICTIONS MR PSAH

The Committee received a report of the Director of Legal Services on an application received for a private hire drivers licence by an applicant who had a number of previous convictions.

The applicant attended the meeting to put forward representations in support of his application and carefully considered the representations given.

RESOLVED - That after careful consideration of the representations made by the applicant the Committee agreed to refuse the application as the applicant was not a fit person and proper person to hold a licence due to the number and seriousness of the convictions that had been recorded against him over a number of years and were of the opinion that sufficient period of time had not elapsed since the date of the last conviction for him to be granted a licence.

(Councillor Mrs D Dickinson declared an interest in the above item and left the room during the discussion and voting).

Chair

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Licensing and Safety Committee**Thursday, 20 April 2006**

Present: Councillor R Snape (Chair), Councillor Miss M Iddon (Vice-Chair) and Councillors T Bedford, D Dickinson, Mrs D Dickinson, A Gee, T Gray, L Lennox and Mrs I Smith

06.LS.19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs M Lees, E Smith, Walker and Mrs Walsh.

06.LS.20 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were declared.

06.LS.21 APPLICATION FOR LICENSE FOR A HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION BY UK RECYCLING

Further to Minute 06.LS.16 5 April 2006 the Deputy Director of Legal Services submitted a report requesting the Committee to reconsider an application received from UK Recycling Assistance for a licence under the House to House Collections Act 1939 to conduct a collection in the Borough between 24 April and 13 May 2006, as it had been established that Members should have been made aware of facts that had not been included in the submitted report. The Committee agreed to rescind the original decision and consider the application afresh taking into account the correct legislation and policy.

The applicant had indicated that the purpose of the collection was to provide funds for The Rainbow Trust, a registered children's charity providing family centred care.

As UK Recycling Assistance was not a registered charity, the Committee was requested to consider whether the applicants had put forward exceptional reasons to warrant the granting of a licence to the organisation for a house-to-house collection, having regard to the amount proposed to be given to the charity.

Two representatives from UK Recycling Assistance attended the meeting to support the organisations application, indicating that 15% of the turnover realised should be devoted to the charity and indicating that the organisation already do house to house collections in many districts in Lancashire.

The Committee, took account of the applicant's representation and supporting documentation

- RESOLVED - 1) That the original decision taken by the Committee on the 5 April 2006 be rescinded.**
2) That the application from UK Recycling Assistance be granted.
3) That an account of the collection be received within one month of the collection and submitted to the Committee should another application be received in the future.

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LICENSING LIAISON PANEL – 27 March 2006

PRESENT Councillor Snape, Councillor Mrs Iddon, Howard Bee, Janet Brereton, Keith Ogden, Yaqoob Illahi, Ann Clitheroe, Julie and Antony Price, Brian Crompton, Mohammed Siddique

1 MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

CCTV Coverage – Janet Brereton reported that the times of the CCTV coverage would not change following the decision of the Council. However, the matter would be kept under review and monitored.

Enforcement Provisions – Janet Brereton informed everyone that the report for the Road Traffic Order has been finalised and will be going to the next available committee. Janet Brereton agreed to continue to chase this matter.

2 REPORT BACK FROM HACKNEY CARRIAGE RANK MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2006 - Janet Brereton informed everyone that the following had been agreed:

A 24-hour rank be re-appointed in High Street for an open-ended period.

The evening rank in Cleveland Street remain in place for now as it would be premature to de-appoint it.

Railings be erected in High Street to reduce disorder

Legal Officer to submit report to relevant committee and begin consultation process.

3 ADDITIONAL HACKNEY CARRIAGE PLATES UPDATE – Howard Bee explained that the Licensing and Safety Committee was to meet on 5 April 2006 to decide on the criteria under which the additional plates would be issued. All feedback and responses from the trade would be considered. The Licensing Unit would write to everyone following the meeting setting out the criteria.**4 IMPROVEMENTS TO LICENSING BEFORE EXPIRY OF LICENCE** – Howard Bee said that the position of licensees renewing before their licence expired had vastly improved and thanked everyone. There had only been two drivers this year who had let their licence lapse and this was due to illness. Yaqoob Illahi asked for clarification and it was explained that any driver letting their licence expire would have the chance to put in a letter of explanation as to why their licence had expired. In any case, another CRB check would be required. There was some discussion as to the length of time the explanation letter would be allowed for. Howard Bee agreed to discuss this with Claire Hallwood.

- 5 APPOINTMENT SYSTEM FEEDBACK AND UPDATE ON LICENSING SECTION** – The appointment system has been up and running for one month and the Licensing Unit asked for feedback. There was a general complaints regarding the amount of time it took to renew a licence in the One Stop Shop, but Howard Bee explained that the officers had been given additional training which should address this. In addition, Howard Bee informed everyone that the Licensing Unit would now be staying in the Civic Offices at Union Street and not be returning to the Town Hall. This meant that there would usually be a member of the Licensing Section available to assist if there were any queries arising. Keith Ogden warned everyone that the parking regulations had changed outside the Civic Offices and that parking was only allowed before 10am and after 4pm.
- 6 FEES AND CHARGES** – Keith Ogden explained that a report detailing an increase in fees and charges would be taken to the next Licensing and Safety Committee (5 April 2006). The increases were in line with inflation, however, there was a slightly higher fee for a new vehicle licence as opposed to a vehicle renewal. This had been discussed and agreed at a previous meeting of the Licensing Liaison Panel. The surcharge for the Unmet Demand Survey would still be charged. Brian Crompton pointed out that the additional 7 plates meant extra income and Yaqoob Illahi asked where would the additional money be going. Howard Bee explained that there have been additional costs such as mailshots, meetings etc. It was agreed that this would be looked at again for the 2007/08 financial year when the additional plates were issued.
- 7 SURCHARGE OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE PROPRIETORS FOR UNMET DEMAND** – Janet Brereton informed everyone that invoices would be sent out to hackney carriage proprietors in April 2006 for the amount of £77.
- 8 PROBATIONARY LICENCES FOR NEW DRIVERS** – Howard Bee asked for the panel's views on having a probationary period for a new driver. A six-month period was suggested and Yellow Cabs said that they would be in favour of a probationary period of 3 months. Keith Ogden pointed out that Committee uses a probationary period at the moment as a tool. Yaqoob Illahi said that licences could be suspended or revoked at the moment. It was agreed to defer this item and asked for panel members to consider the pros and cons which would be discussed at a future meeting.
- 9 TRAINING OF DRIVERS** - Keith Ogden said that Preston City Council's business plan included measures to improve standards and the Licensing Section was looking into making training a requirement for all new drivers. He went on to say that the Government was pushing for it and it may well become compulsory in the future. Keith Ogden requested feedback and discussion followed regarding who would pay for the training, whether it would be designed to include customer care and whether it should be new or existing drivers.
- 10 EXPIRY DATE ON HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE PLATES** – Keith Ogden explained that the Licensing Section was moving towards

having expiry dates on vehicle plates. The members of the panel agreed that it should be included, but were concerned that the costs would have to be met by the trade. Brian Crompton suggested a disc in the window, which was more visible to the travelling public, was another possible solution. Keith Ogden agreed to look into this.

11 SOME PROPRIETORS FAILING TO DISPLAY PLATES ON VEHICLES

– Keith Ogden warned that he would be clamping down on any licensed vehicles that did not display a plate.

12 TAXI MARSHALL SCHEME – Keith Ogden explained that this scheme had been put forward by the police at the meeting to consider the Rank. It was agreed that it was a good idea, but that cost would need to be looked into. There was a discussion regarding the High Street rank and all agreed that the first step was to get the railings in place which had been mentioned previously, then speak to the officer who suggested the scheme with a view to including representatives from the local public houses.

13 HOAX TAXIS – COMPLAINT RECEIVED – Janet Brereton asked if anyone was aware of hoax taxi being sent to the complainant. All those present said that the address in question was not one that they recognised.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – Yaqoob Illahi raised a question regarding medical. This has been looked at before, but the Licensing Section would be prepared to take the matter to Committee if a doctor's practice was willing to carry out all the taxi medical.

There was still a problem with a private hire firm, however, it was agreed that this matter was still ongoing and as such would not be discussed at this panel

Number of vehicles operating from one base – Keith Ogden clarified that the number of vehicles operating from one base was dependent on Planning Services and each case was considered on its merits.

Brian Crompton raised concerns with the signage at Cleveland Street/Union Street and Keith Ogden agreed to email Paul Dunne.

The next meeting will take place on 15 May 2006 at 10.30am in the Committee Room, Town Hall, Chorley.

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Report of	Meeting	Date
Chief Executive	Licensing & Safety Committee	7 June 2006

LICENSING AND REGISTRATION LICENCES ISSUED FROM 15 FEBRUARY 2006 TO 12 MAY 2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To inform the Committee of the various licences and permits issued and the registrations effected since the last Committee.

2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

There are no specific implications for corporate policies arising from this report.

3. RISK ISSUES

The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy		Information	✓
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

This report is for information only.

4. SECOND HAND GOODS

5. HACKNEY CARRIAGES, PRIVATE HIRE REGISTRATIONS

The table below shows the number of licences/registrations issued during this period. Generally, renewal Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Vehicle/Drivers Licences and renewal Private hire Operator Licences are now issued by the One Stop Shop.

Number of	New	Renewals	Transfers	Vehicle Change
Private Hire Vehicles	8	51	1	9
Private Hire Drivers Licence	11	38	0	0
Private Hire Operator	2	3	1	0
Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence	6	10	0	0
Hackney Carriage Vehicle	0	16	2	1

Continued....



6. HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTIONS

There have been 3 applications granted for House to House Permits during this period.

7. STREET COLLECTION PERMITS

There have been 9 applications granted for Street Collection Permits during this period.

8. LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS ACT 1976 (AS AMENDED)

There have been 4 Lottery permits issued.

9. MOTOR SALVAGE OPERATOR

There have been no Motor Salvage Operator Licences issued during this period.

Enforcement visits for period from 15 February 2006 to 12 May 2006

10. During the above period 54 visits have been made to premises in connection with licensing matters. The majority of visits have been routine except for the following:-

161 Eaves Lane. visit Star Cars with planning officer re application to use that address as private hire base. Planning permission was refused

16 Shakespeare Terrace. visit to check that operator is complying with conditions following information received, warning letter sent and further checks to be made.

40 Croft Meadow, Bamber Bridge to recover plate from unlicensed Private Hire Vehicle, vehicle subsequently re-licensed.

Low Mill, Clayton le Woods. to recover plate from unlicensed Private Hire Vehicle, vehicle subsequently re-licensed

Mitre Hotel, Chorley to check that licence conditions are being complied with advice given.

Suspension of vehicles

- 11 2 Private Hire vehicle licences have been suspended during this period.

Investigation of complaints

12. 1 complaint has been received during this period. This complaint was in respect of "overcharging" and was resolved without a need to refer a report to Committee.

Joint Operations

13. 1 joint operation has been carried out during this period. This was a vehicle check with Lancashire County Council.

A private hire driver's licence has been suspended and is the subject of a report before this Committee.

Officers and Councillor Ralph Snape attended South Ribble Magistrates Court on 2 May when an appeal by a private hire driver whose licence had been suspended by this Committee was heard. The appeal was allowed, but the Magistrates stated that there was no criticism of the actions taken by the Committee as evidence was given at the appeal hearing that was not available to the Committee.

Report compiled 15 May 2006
Keith Ogden
Licensing Enforcement Officer

COMMENTS OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

14. There are no comments from the Director of Finance.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES.

15. There are no comments from the Head of Human Resources

RECOMMENDATION(S)

16. Members are asked to note the report

Donna Hall
Chief Executive

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Various applications	Various dates	Various files	Licensing Section Legal Services Chorley

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
Jayne Day	5161	23 May 2006	LEGREP/LICENSING & REGISTRATION

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Report

Report of	Meeting	Date	Item No
Chief Executive	Licensing & Safety Committee	7 June 2006	

STRETCHED LIMOUSINES – EXCEPTION TO LICENCE CONDITION REGARDING COLOUR

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To bring to the attention of members a problem that could arise in licensing stretched limousines.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

2. This report is not relevant to any of the key corporate priorities of the Council.

RISK ISSUES

3. The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	✓	Information	
Reputation		Regulatory/Legal	
Financial		Operational	
People		Other	

4. The Council must be in a position to licence various types of vehicles including stretched limousines.

BACKGROUND

5. At a meeting of this Committee in January of this year it was resolved that all hackney carriages must be white and all private hire vehicles must be any colour except white
6. The reason for introducing this condition was to emphasise the difference between hackney carriage and private hire vehicles for the benefit of the users of these vehicles.
7. There is a certain section of the vehicle hire trade that is presently licensed by VOSA, but should reasonably be licensed by the Council. and there are many operators who are providing vehicles such as stretched limousines without any licences whatsoever.
8. A major problem in licensing a stretched limousine at present is the licence condition that does not allow white private hire vehicles. Many of these limousines are supplied as white vehicles and it would be unreasonable to expect the owners to change the colour

Continued....



- 9. As the reason for the licence condition relating to the colour of the vehicle is as stated at paragraph 6 above, there would not be a problem of a white stretched limousine being mistaken for a hackney carriage and to allow the licensing of these type of vehicles it is suggested that an exception could be made in respect of stretched limousines or similar types of vehicles.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- 10. Not applicable

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

- 11. Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 12. That the Committee considers amending the licence condition in respect of private hire vehicles from "4 (g) the colour of the vehicle shall not be white" to "4 (g) the colour of the vehicle shall not be white unless it is a stretched limousine or other similar vehicle that is acceptable for licensing as a private hire vehicle"

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Minute 06.LS.05 of meeting on 11/1/06			

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
K Ogden	5163	11 May 2006	LEGREP/STRETCHED LIMOS

Report

Report of	Meeting	Date	Item No
Chief Executive	Licensing & Safety Committee	7 June 2006	

VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS

PURPOSE OF REPORT

- To report to members the discussions that have taken place regarding the possible introduction of vocational training for drivers of hackney carriages and private hire vehicles.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- This report is relevant to further the following key corporate priorities of the Council i.e. making a safer Chorley by ensuring as far as practicable that all licensed drivers are fit and proper persons and that they are adequately trained to carry out their duties

RISK ISSUES

- The issue raised and recommendations made in this report involve risk considerations in the following categories:

Strategy	✓	Information	
Reputation	✓	Regulatory/Legal	✓
Financial	✓	Operational	✓
People		Other	

- The Council needs to show that it is addressing the issue of driver training, there will be cost involved, members of the trade could ask for a judicial review of any decision made and there are also operational considerations with the extra work involved in setting up and running a training scheme

BACKGROUND

- The Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee in its good practice guide 2003 emphasised the need for driver training for taxi drivers in dealing with disabled people.
- In a speech by the Transport Minister Karen Buck to the National Taxi Association on 25 October 2005 concerning best practice, she said that drivers training is something that is mentioned in a draft best practice and that in the future licensing authorities might stipulate those applying for their first licences undergo a certain amount of training.

Continued....



7. The chairman of the National Private Hire Association has given his support for the need for driver training to a BTEC level and there is clearly a growing impetus for Councils to introduce driver training.
8. Preliminary discussions have already been held with Preston and South Ribble Councils regarding the setting up of a scheme to provide training for new drivers of hackney carriage and private hire vehicles.
9. Other Councils have addressed this matter and have adopted different approaches: Blackburn initially sent drivers on a course run by Accrington College, this course had attracted central funding, however when funding was no longer available that Council decided to use the driving course run by the Driving Standards Agency that is designed specifically for hackney carriage and private hire drivers (the cost of this is £53.50 - £62.50) Kirklees Council was one of the forerunners in introducing driver training, their approach is a one and a half day training course run by a local college with the help of the Police (the cost for this training is £60).
10. A meeting was held at Preston City Council on 10 May 2006 attended by representatives of the Licensing Sections of Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Councils when representatives from Runshaw College outlined their proposals for a vocational training course for new applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences.
11. The proposal from Runshaw College was to set up a course that would address all the issues concerning the transportation of passengers by hackney and private hire vehicles, including the necessary training in disability awareness. This course would be a total of 24 hours, probably split into four days at a total cost of £150 per candidate. This would be a nationally recognised course that could be tailored to suit each Council's licensing conditions following liaison between the tutors and the Councils. There would no longer be a need for the Council's knowledge test that would give a saving in time and resources.
12. Candidates would undergo an initial assessment to ensure that they would be capable of understanding and completing the course and a certificate would be awarded upon successful completion of the course.
13. The college would need a minimum of 15 candidates for each course to make it viable and it is important for this proposal to succeed that all three councils participate. In addition if one Council were to introduce training that was perceived to be easier and/or cheaper for the applicant it may make it difficult for the Councils who adopt the Runshaw training to encourage new drivers.
14. The Driving Standards Agency has been running driving assessment tests for hackney and private hire drivers for a number of years and in fact have given a presentation to this Committee in the past.
15. The Driving Standards Agency do not run a course but issue an explanation of the assessment procedure that places the onus on the applicant to familiarise himself with the requirements. The cost of this assessment is £53.50 for saloon type vehicles, £62.50 for hackney carriages with an additional £18 to upgrade from the saloon type test to a hackney test. The Council would still need to require applicants to undergo the existing knowledge test. The main problem with the assessment is that candidates are not given any indication as to where they can receive the necessary training to enable them to successfully complete the assessment.
16. There are already considerable costs for an applicant who wishes to obtain a Hackney/private hire drivers licence ie. Criminal Records check £35, medical (depending upon the applicants GP) in the region of £100, licence/knowledge test fee £59.

17. These proposals have been put before the local Licensing Liaison Panel and representatives have been invited to attend this Committee meeting.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

18 Not applicable

COMMENTS OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

19 Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 20 That the Committee considers the introduction of driver training after considering the following three options ie.
- (a) A full training course as suggested by Runshaw College, resulting in the award of a certificate, involving the three Councils
 - (b) The Driving Standards Assessment resulting in a nationally recognised driving qualification
 - (c) In house training utilising officers time and knowledge and possibly the help of external sources,

DONNA HALL
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Background Papers			
Document	Date	File	Place of Inspection
Driving Standards Agency information pack			Licensing Office
Scheme of Work suggested by Runshaw College			

Report Author	Ext	Date	Doc ID
K Ogden	5163	11 May 2006	LEGREP/VOCATIONAL TRAINING

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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