

# **REPORT OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE**

## **GENERAL REPORT**

1. This report sets out a brief summary of the main items considered at the meeting of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 28 March 2007.

### **Licensing and Registration – Summary of Activity from 1 January 2007 to 9 March 2007**

2. We received and noted a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services on the various licences and permits issued and the regulations effected by the Licensing Section for the period 1 February 2007 to 9 March 2007 under the Licensing Act 2003.

### **Application for Private Hire Drivers Licence – Failure to Meet Medical Standards**

3. We considered an application to drive private hire vehicles following the failure of the applicant to pass the Group 2 medical on the grounds of him having lost one eye when he was 11 years old.
4. The report indicated that under Section 51(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 it was a requirement that a Council should not grant a licence to drive hackney carriage or private hire vehicle 'unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a drivers licence'. Chorley Borough Council adopted Group 2 standards for medical checks on 7 June 2000.
5. The Committee after fully considering his application and the Council policy in this respect, agreed to grant him a licence to drive private hire vehicle provided that he attains Group 2 medical standard in all aspects apart from vision. However, the applicant must show that the visual field in the remaining eye is normal. The Committee in reaching this decision took into account the fact that he had only ever driven with sight in one eye, with many years of driving experience and excellent accident record. The Committee also requested that he ensures that his employer and any future employer are aware of the fact that he only has sight in one eye.

### **Licensed Private Hire Proprietor – Allowing vehicles to be used without Insurance and Road Tax**

6. We received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services bringing to our attention a complaint that had been made by a member of the public that two private hire vehicles were being used on a public road without current tax discs.
7. On 15 March 2007 suspension notices were served in respect of both vehicles and when the person currently in charge of running the taxi firm attended the Council Offices, no explanation was offered.
8. The Committee had previously received a report at its meeting on 11 October 2006 following information received that the firm was running a vehicle in a dangerous condition and ordered that all vehicles licensed by the firm be suspended until all vehicles had been subjected to a vehicle test by an accredited testing station.
9. The person currently in charge of running the firm attended the meeting along with a colleague to put forward an explanation as to why the vehicles were being used on a public road without current tax discs and no insurance on one vehicle. The Committee was not satisfied with the explanation given and agreed that the person who is currently the holder of the private hire operator's licence be invited to a future meeting of the Committee to give a full explanation and to answer any questions the Committee may have.

## **Application for Licence to Drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough**

10. We received a report of the Director of Customer, Democratic and Legal Services requesting the Committee to consider an application for a licence to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles within the Borough of Chorley.
11. The applicant had been invited to attend the meeting but had notified Officers that he requested his application to be adjourned to a future meeting.

### **Recommendation**

12. The Council is recommended to note the report.

COUNCILLOR MRS I SMITH  
Chair of the Licensing and Safety Committee

GKB

There are no background papers to this report.