

REPORT OF LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

GENERAL REPORT

1. This report is a brief summary of the main items considered at meetings of the Licensing and Safety Committee held on 25 April and 25 May 2007.

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE – 25 APRIL 2007

Vocational Training for Hackney/Private Hire Drivers

2. We received a further report on a proposal to introduce vocational training for all new applicants for hackney carriage and private hire drivers licences.
3. The Committee had previously recommended that the Licensing Liaison Panel consider the proposals. Those attending the Panel saw the proposal as a positive step however there was a risk that the extra costs incurred by new drivers may discourage them from taking up 'taxi' work leading to a shortage of drivers.
4. We agreed to defer the proposal for six months in order to assess the impact of compulsory driver training in Preston and South Ribble Council who had already made this training compulsory for new drivers.

Licensed Private Hire Operator – Allowing a vehicle to be used without insurance and Road Tax

5. We received a report bringing our attention to a complaint made by a member of the public that two private hire vehicles were being used on a public road without current tax discs and that one vehicle did not have a valid insurance.
6. At a previous meeting, the Committee agreed that it was not satisfied with the explanation given by the person running the firm who attended the meeting. We agreed that the person who was currently the holder of the private hire operators licence be invited to this meeting to give a full explanation and to answer any questions the Committee may have.
7. The operator attended the meeting putting forward an explanation and enabling Members to ask questions.
8. We agreed that the Private Hire Operators Licence be revoked on the basis that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence and on the grounds of "of any other reasonable cause" (Section 61(1)(d) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976). An explanation of reasonable cause was given to the Committee.

LICENSING AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 23 MAY 2007

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

9. We received a report requesting the Committee to consider an application for a licence to drive Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicles within the Borough of Chorley.

10. At the meeting of the Committee held on 28 March 2007 we agreed to adjourn the application.
11. The applicant along with his legal representative had been invited to attend the meeting but neither attended.
12. We agreed to adjourn consideration of the application to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 11 July 2007 and that the applicant be informed in writing and delivered by hand to himself and his legal representative and that another opportunity be given to him to attend to put forward representations in support of his application. Should he not attend on that occasion the application would be considered in his absence.

Recommendation

13. The Council is recommended to note the report.

COUNCILLOR MRS I SMITH
Chairman of the Licensing and Safety Committee

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There are no background papers to this report.