

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

held 30<sup>th</sup> January 2002  
at 4.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Smith (in the Chair)  
Councillors Birtwell, Driver, Eaton, L.Forshaw and Pearson (for Hancock)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Hancock

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr C McConville, Principal Administrative Assistant  
Miss H Holt, Administrative Assistant

**Exclusion of the Public and Press**

771. Resolved that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following two items of business on the grounds that it involves the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Act.

**Application for Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence – Mr M.M.**

772. The Chair welcomed the applicant and his representatives to the meeting. The Licensing Officer then presented a report detailing the circumstances surrounding the application for a Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence from Mr M.M., a copy of which, together with the procedural notes, had been provided to the applicant.

The Committee proceeded to deal with the application in accordance with the Council's approved procedure. The applicant and the Licensing Officer then retired from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

The applicant was reminded that as part of the conditions of the Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence convictions for any offences must be disclosed to the Council.

Resolved that Mr M.M. be granted a hackney carriage drivers licence.

**Application for Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence – Mr P.A.**

773. The Chief Executive Officer reminded Members that a licence was granted to Mr P.A. on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2001 until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2002 and that the matter would be further considered at the February meeting of the Committee, however, the next meeting of the Committee had been arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> March and it would not be possible to consider the application before the current licence expired.

Resolved

- i) that Mr P.A. be invited to submit an application for the renewal of his licence,
- ii) that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to consider the application for the renewal of his licence from Mr. P.A. and to grant the licence unless additional prosecutions or impending prosecutions are shown on the latest police check,
- iii) that the application be not subject to a further payment or to a further medical examination.

Action Taken on the Minutes of Previous Meetings of the Licensing  
(Taxi/Private Hire) Sub-Committee

774. The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report detailing action taken on the Minutes of the previous meetings of the Licensing (Taxi/Private Hire) Sub-Committee.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Tests for Licensed Vehicles

775. The Chief Executive Officer submitted a report detailing those vehicles which had failed the MOT/Rossendale Taxi Test at the first attempt as detailed below.

1.	P994 EJO	VAUXHALL ASTRA	VALLEY TAXIS
2.	M809 YUM	VAUXHALL CAVALIER	KK TAXIS
3.	N516 SRY	ROVER 400	INTIME TAXIS
4.	G930 WBA	TOYOTA HIACE	AK TAXIS
5.	R394 ORM	TOYOTA CARINA	RED BARON
6.	L943 LFR	RENAULT TRAFFIC MINIBUS	VALLEY TAXIS
7.	K62 JUA	LEYLAND MINIBUS	NOT YET LICENSED
8.	N327 HCW	FORD TRANSIT MINIBUS	NOT YET LICENSED
9.	R828 MCW	ROVER 600	MILLENIUM CARS
10.	R744 RKW	VAUXHALL VECTRA	BACUP TAXIS

The Chief Executive Officer reported that a further 16 vehicles passed the MOT/Rossendale Taxi Test at the first attempt, thus giving an overall pass rate of 62%. He reminded the Committee that the pass rate reported to the meeting of the Sub-Committee held 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2001 was 62% and the national average for vehicles passing the MOT test at first attempt was approximately 66%.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Hackney Carriage Stand, King Street, Bacup

776. The Chief Executive Officer reported on the progress regarding the establishment of a Hackney Carriage Stand in King Street, Bacup. He informed the Committee that details of the proposal had been advertised in the Rossendale Free Press on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2001 and residents within the locality had been consulted.

The Chief Executive Officer further reported the receipt of 8 letters of objection and he submitted a further letter received since the preparation of the report. He informed the Committee that no objections had been received from residents.

The Committee proceeded to consider the objections and following a full discussion thereon, it was,

Resolved i) that the Chief Executive Officer be authorised to proceed with the formal appointment of a Hackney Carriage Stand for 5 vehicles 24 hours per day, on the eastern side of King Street, Bacup, commencing at a point 5 metres from its junction with Union Street,

ii) that the Borough Engineer and Planning Officer be instructed to provide the necessary signs/markings for the hackney carriage stand.

Working Group

777. The Chief Executive Officer reminded Members that at the last meeting of the Licensing (Taxi/Private Hire) Sub-Committee held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2001 a Working Group had been established to undertake a comprehensive review of Licence Conditions.

He informed the Committee that he had been unable to allocate resources to the task due to staff shortages within the Administrative Section and requested that the first meeting of the Working Group be called when the new post of Administrative Assistant was occupied.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Membership of Rossendale Taxi Association

778. The Chief Executive Officer reported that concerns had been expressed regarding the representative nature of the Rossendale Taxi Association.

He informed Members that he had requested information from the Taxi Association on the numbers of their membership but no response had been received.

Resolved that the report be noted.

Insurance

779. The Chief Executive Officer reported that at the meeting of the Taxi Liaison Group held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2001 an allegation was made that certain drivers were operating without the appropriate insurance.

He informed the Committee that applicants for vehicle licences were required to provide evidence of their insurance at the time of application and such evidence could be in the form of a certificate of insurance or cover note and in the case of a cover note it would normally be for a period of 30 days. Random checks were made of insurance documents and if allegations were made suggesting a particular driver or vehicle was not insured, the cases were always followed up. In addition, a more comprehensive exercise had been undertaken on occasions, to check the insurance of selected operators and drivers or groups of drivers, and in all cases the insurance checked had been found to be in order.

Resolved i) that the Chief Executive Officer introduce a system for checking insurances whereby initially the Enforcement Officer undertakes planned visits to operators,

ii) that a report be submitted to the next possible meeting of the Committee on this exercise,

iii) that the Chief Executive Officer be requested to explore ways of receiving information on uninsured drivers from the Court.

Vehicle Age Limit – Mini Buses

780. The Chief Executive Officer reported that the Council currently had an age limit for vehicles whereby vehicles must be under five years old when first licensed as a Taxi or Private Hire Vehicle and thereafter, such licences would be renewed until the vehicles are 7 years old and 364 days old.

He reminded the Committee that when the age limit was imposed Members agreed that it would not apply to minibuses.

He requested Members views on whether to adopt a policy in respect of the age of mini buses.

Resolved i) that the Committee introduce an age limit in respect of mini buses whereby vehicles which have not previously been licensed by the Council, must be no more than 6 years old from the date of first registration; thereafter, such vehicles may remain licensed until the age of 9 years and 364 days,

ii) that the Chief Executive Officer be requested to submit details of the ages of all currently licensed minibuses to the next meeting of the Committee.

#### Hackney Carriage Fares

781. The Chief Executive Officer gave details of the current hackney carriage fares for consideration of the Committee.

He reported that the present fares in Rossendale were reviewed by the Licensing (Taxi/Private Hire) Sub Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2000 and were introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2000 and that it was the normal practice for fares to be reviewed annually in February.

He requested Members views thereon.

Resolved that the Chief Executive Officer report to the next meeting of the Committee with details of hackney carriage fares charged by Rossendale's neighbouring authorities.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 5.10 PM**