

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

5 JULY 2011

Present: County Councillor Bridges (Chairperson);
County Councillors Cox, Ali, Goddard, Grant,
Griffiths, Derrick Morgan, Elgan Morgan and
Singh

Apology: County Councillor Smith

PP18 : MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 June 2011 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and signed by the Chairperson.

PP19 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE MATTERS

RESOLVED – That the following applications be dealt with as indicated:

- (1) K Mohammed – Mercedes C220 Registration No. W508 SKK

Application to extend the licensing period of Mercedes C220
Registration No. W508 SKK for a further period refused.
- (2) K Mohammed – Volkswagen Passat Registration No. CU51 JTJ

Application to extend the licensing period of Volkswagen Passat
Registration No. CU51 JTJ for a further period granted.
- (3) S Ahmed – Ford Mondeo Registration No. Y485 RRY

Application to extend the licensing period of Ford Mondeo
Registration No. Y485 RRY for a further period granted.
- (4) B Choudhury – Volkswagen Passat Registration No. W303 WDN

Application to extend the licensing period of Volkswagen Passat
Registration No. W303 WDN for a further period refused.

- (5) N Nissoro – Vauxhall Omega Registration No. Y162 FNP

Application to extend the licensing period of Vauxhall Omega Registration No. Y162 FNP for a further period granted.

- (6) F Malik – Volkswagon Passat Registration No. Y365 ERG

Application to extend the licensing period of Volkswagon Passat Registration No. Y365 ERG for a further period granted.

- (7) T Siraj – Peugeot Combi Registration No. CA54 ZVE

Application to extend the licensing period of Peugeot Combi Registration No. CA54 ZVE for a further period refused.

PP20 : RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON TAXI FARE INCREASE

On 10 May 2011 the Committee resolved to increase the Hackney Carriage rate of fare. A public notice was published in the Western Mail on 23 May 2011, as required by legislation. Members were advised that a petition had been received in response to the public notice. The petition objected to that part of the increase which proposed a rise from £1 to £1.50 for each passenger exceeding four. There were no objections to the other elements of the increase. A letter received from Dragon Taxis in support of the proposed increase was also attached to the report.

The Committee heard representations from Sharon Donaghie of Capital Cabs and Gareth Owen from Dragon Taxis. Miss Donaghie was concerned that the increase would adversely affect trade and would deter people from using taxis. The increase, as proposed, would affect short journeys disproportionately. Gareth Owen addressed the Committee in support of the increase. The Committee was advised that the increase would only affect vehicles capable of carrying more than four passengers and equated to a rise of 50p per person for every passenger over four. Drivers of larger vehicles had higher running costs and the vehicles cost more to purchase. Mr Owen stated that 95% of drivers in the trade were happy with the proposed increase.

Members questioned whether there was any evidence to suggest that customers would be deterred from using taxis. Concern was expressed

that the increase would impact negatively on the taxi trade.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the proposed increase in respect of the price for each passenger exceeding four from £1 to £1.50 not be accepted. Members considered that this would possibly deter passengers travelling in a group from using taxis.
- (2) all other components of the taxi fare increase were approved and will come into effect on 1 September 2011.

PP21 : REMOVAL OF THE REQUIRMENT FOR DRIVERS TO UNDERTAKE DISABILITY AWARENESS TEST TRAINING

The Committee was advised that a request had been received from private hire operators Dragon Taxis and Premier Cars for the removal of the requirement for all new drivers to undertake disability awareness training. Following a review by Officers, Members received a report providing Members with details of their findings. The report recommended that the requirement that drivers attend a disability awareness training course was unnecessary.

Since 1991 all new applicants for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Licences have been required to undertake disability awareness training within three months of the licence being granted. Since 2010 all new drivers were required to pass a Level 2 BTEC Award in Transporting Passengers by Taxi and Private Hire. In February 2011 that qualification was amended to a Level 2 BTEC: Introduction to the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver. The new course had been improved and now included a module on disability and accessibility. The following learning outcomes are achieved:

- Understanding of anti-discriminatory legislation.
- How to recognise when a passenger needs assistance.
- How to provide an appropriate service for customers who may experience difficulties in using taxis and private hire vehicles.
- How to provide safe wheelchair assistance to customers who require transfer to an accessible vehicle.

Officers considered that the new BTEC course covered disability

awareness comprehensively and, therefore, would more than adequately cover the issues raised by the Disability Awareness Training Course.

RESOLVED – That for the purposes of applying for the grant of a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Drivers Licence the production of the BTEC Certificate in the Introduction of the Role of the Professional Taxi and Private Hire Driver be accepted as satisfactory evidence of having completed Disability Awareness Training and the requirement for the separate Disability Awareness Training course be removed.

PP22 : MANAGING VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION IN THE WORKPLACE: A REVIEW OF LOCAL BUSINESSES IN CARDIFF

The Health & Safety Executive has reported that one shop worker is attacked or threatened every minute at 60% of businesses experience crime. Businesses which experience violence also suffer from a higher turnover of staff, lost staff time and potential compensation claims. In 2010 a two-year National Project was developed by Welsh Local Authorities in partnership with the Health & Safety Executive to tackle work related violence and aggression.

In Cardiff, the first stage of the project involved the Health & Safety Enforcement Team who visited 54 businesses in the City in order to review and advise employers on the provisions in place to manage violence and aggression. The aim of the Project was to identify businesses that were at risk. The Committee received a report outlining the results of the Project. Sarah Jones, Team Leader, Health & Improvement Team, addressed the Committee. Members were advised that recent reports in the media on these issues had taken the facts out of context. Miss Jones was encouraged by working with smaller businesses during the study but emphasised that the results of the Project represented a relatively small sample of businesses.

Members questioned whether there was a correlation between the incidents taking place and whether the premises were selling alcohol. They were advised that there was no evidence to suggest a link, but there was a general perception that many incidents were drink or drug related. It was envisaged these issues would be covered during the next stage of the study.

RESOLVED – That the Committee approve the findings of the report.

PP23 : LICENSING SERVICE – SUMMARY OF GENERAL
LICENSING ACTIVITIES 2010/2011

The Committee received a report summarising the work undertaken by the Service during the year from 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011. The report provided information on the various aspects of the work of the Service during the period and compared that with previous years.

Members were advised that the total number of applications received and processed had fallen during the period. Officers stated that this fall was primarily due to a fall in the numbers of MOT Tests taking place at Sloper Road. It was noted that the overall trend of work undertaken by the Service was increasing.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

PP24 : SKIN PIERCING REGISTRATIONS

The Committee noted the action taken by the Chief Officer in respect of the following applications:

- (1) Miss K Chaplin – Claire’s Accessories, Unit 37, Queens Arcade, Cathays, Cardiff.

Grant of Skin Piercing Personal and Premises Registrations.

- (2) Miss E Downes – Cardiff Acupuncture Clinic, 291a Cyncoed Road, Cyncoed, Cardiff.

Grant of Skin Piercing Premises and Personal Registrations.

- (3) Miss B M Bool – A Kut Above, 39a Wilson Road, Ely, Cardiff.

Grant of Skin Piercing Premises and Personal Registrations.

- (4) Miss N Pollendine – Physical Graffiti, 124 City Road, Plasnewydd, Cardiff.

Grant of Skin Piercing Personal Registration.

PP25 : STREET AND HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION LICENCE APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED – That the following applications be dealt with as indicated:

- (1) Mr N J Kell – Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia fund (CALF)

Application for the grant of a House to House Collection Permit to collect in the whole of the City from 20 July 2011 until 31 December 2011 on behalf of Children’s Cancer and Leukaemia Fund (CALF), approved.

- (2) Sergeant J Davies – PRI 1st Queen’s Dragoon Guards (The Welsh Cavalry)

Application for the grant of a Street Collection Permit and House to House Collection Permit to collect in the City Centre on Monday 25 July and Tuesday 26 July 2011 on behalf of PRI 1st Queen’s Dragoon Guards (The Welsh Cavalry), approved.

- (3) Ms R Derith – The Wallich

Application for the grant of a Street Collection Permit to collect in the City Centre on Wednesday 13 July 2011 on behalf of the Wallich, granted.

PP26 : STREET AND HOUSE TO HOUSE COLLECTION PERMIT APPLICATIONS

The Committee noted the action by the Chief Officer in respect of the following applications:

- (1) Miss L Bradshaw – Wateraid

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in the City Centre on Sunday 14 August 2011 on behalf of Wateraid.

- (2) Mr R Pengelly, Miss R Smith and Samantha Griffiths – Cancer Research UK

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in

Cowbridge Road East, Merthyr Road, Whitchurch and Central Square only on Saturday 13 August 2011 on behalf of Cancer Research UK.

- (3) Miss N Kell – Tenovus

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in the Cardiff Bay area on Wednesday 22 June 2011 on behalf of Tenovus.

- (4) Miss L Evans – The Joshua Foundation

Application for a House to House Collection Permit granted to collect in the City Centre and Butetown on Saturday 11 June 2011 on behalf of The Joshua Foundation.

- (5) Ms N J Uddin – Muslim Aid

Application for a House to House Collection Permit granted to collect in the whole of the City from 1 August 2011 until 15 September 2011 on behalf of Muslim Aid.

- (6) Mr E Lewell – Save The Children

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in the City Centre on Thursday 16 and Friday 17 June 2011 on behalf of Save The Children.

- (7) Mr S Tallis – Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in the City Centre on Friday 15 July 2011 on behalf of Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

- (8) Miss S L Griffiths – Ty Hafan

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in Roald Dahl Plas on Saturday 4 September 2011 on behalf of Ty Hafan.

(9) Miss A Sampson – Shelter

Application for a Street Collection Permit granted to collect in the City Centre on Sunday 23 October 2011 on behalf of Shelter.

PP27 : EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that if members of the public were present during the discussions, because of the nature of the business to be transacted, there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Section 100(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Categories 1 and 3 of the Local Authorities (accessing to information) (variation) (Wales) Order 2007 as described below;

“Information relating to the business affairs of any particular person (other than the Authority)”.

(County Councillor Derrick Morgan declared an interest, under the Members Code of Conduct, in Item 10 in the following. He remained in the meeting but took now part in the discussion or decision).

PP28 : HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED – That the following applications be dealt with as indicated:

(1) P J Richards

Six penalty points imposed - two penalty points for no fire extinguisher, two penalty points for no first aid kit and two penalty points for no driver's identification badge.

(2) M Mohammed

Did not attend. Eight penalty points imposed for having two defective tyres.

(3) M Ahmed

Deferred for one month.

- (4) V R D S E Sousa
Did not attend. Four penalty points imposed, 2 points for not have a fire extinguisher and 2 points for not having a first aid kit
- (5) E Addicot
Six penalty points imposed for having two defective tyres.
- (6) J K Bailey
Four penalty points imposed for having a defective tyre.
- (7) M Shahzad
Adjourned for one month.
- (8) M Saleh
Four penalty points imposed for having a defective tyre.
- (9) F K Jaafar
Four penalty points imposed for having a defective tyre.
- (10) P Broad
Did not attend. 4 penalty points imposed for having a defective tyre.
- (11) A Hoque
16 penalty points imposed for having four defective tyres.
- (12) T Morrissey
Did not attend. Licence suspended until the next meeting.
- (13) S M Jama
Application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire

Drivers Licence approved.

(14) I W Lewis

Application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire
Drivers Licence approved.

(15) A S Yussuf

Withdrawn.

(16) A Hamoodi

Application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire
Drivers Licence approved.

(17) T M M Seblan

Application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire
Drivers Licence approved.

PP29 : LEGAL PROCEEDINGS AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

The Committee noted the legal proceedings and enforcement actions that had taken place during the period.

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Chairperson