

5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SUB-COMMITTEE A

REPORT OF: Sally Blades, Member Support and Partnerships
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Wards Affected: All
Key Decision No

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint five members of the full Licensing Committee to serve on Licensing Sub-Committee A which deals with taxi matters following the Report of the Constitution Review Working Group to Council on 15th April 2009.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That five members of the full Licensing Committee be appointed to serve on Licensing Sub-Committee A.**

3.0 Other Material Implications

None.

4.0 Background Papers

Report of the Constitution Review Working Group to Council on 15th April 2009.

6. MULTI-AGENCY TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE SAFETY CHECK

REPORT OF: HEAD OF HOUSING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND BUILDING CONTROL

Contact Officer: Alec Lee Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Officer
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Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Licensing Committee of the findings of a recent Multi Agency Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Safety Check.

2.0 SUMMARY

2.1 On Wednesday 10th June 2009 a Multi Agency Taxi and Private Hire vehicle safety check was organised by the Licensing Officer involving Sussex Police, Vosa, West Sussex County Council school contracts and Mid Sussex District Council Benefit Fraud Officers.

2.2 During the day 37 vehicles licensed by Mid Sussex District Council, Wealden District Council and Crawley Borough Council were checked.

2.3 As a result Vosa issued two Mid Sussex licensed vehicles with immediate prohibition notices and the Licensing Officer suspended their licences. Vosa issued one Wealden licensed vehicle with a delayed prohibition notice.

2.4 A number of drivers were advised with regard to infringements of licensing conditions and general vehicle maintenance and safety.

2.5 Four suspected Benefit Fraudsters were also detected.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

This report is for information purposes only.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 POWER TO LICENCE VEHICLES

By virtue of the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and the Transport Act 1985. The Council is required to administer and enforce the activities of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles and Operators through out the district.

4.2 Before a local authority grants a vehicle licence it must be satisfied that all Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles are mechanically maintained to a high standard

and are visibly presentable at all times. Once licensed these vehicles are regularly inspected by the Council to ensure that the standard is maintained.

- 4.3** On Wednesday 10th June 2009 a Multi Agency Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Safety Check was organised by the Licensing Officer, and involved officers from Sussex Police, Vosa, West Sussex County Council school contracts and Mid Sussex District Council Benefits Office. The day was divided into two phases, with the first part of the day checking licensed vehicles delivering children to a Special Needs School in Burgess Hill and the remainder of the day checking licensed vehicles working in Burgess Hill, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead. Through out the day 37 Licensed vehicles were checked, 33 licensed by Mid Sussex District Council, 3 licensed by Wealden District Council and 1 licensed by Crawley Borough Council.
- 4.4** On the first phase of the check 4 persons suspected of working while claiming benefits were detected by the Benefits officer. 1 Mid Sussex Licensed Private Hire vehicle driver was issued with an immediate prohibition notice by the Vosa inspector for a defective tyre. The licence plate was suspended by the Licensing Officer
- 4.5** On the second phase of the check a Mid Sussex Licensed Private Hire vehicle driver was issued with an immediate prohibition notice by the Vosa inspector for having its drivers foot well obstructed by a loose radio and money bag. The licensing officer suspended the licence plate. A Wealden District Council licensed Hackney Carriage driver was issued with a delayed prohibition notice by the Vosa inspector for split drive shaft gaiters.
- 4.6** By the end of the check 6 drivers had been advised regarding tyres on their vehicles, which were bordering on being illegal.
- 4.7** The following infringements of licensing conditions were detected and drivers were given advice.
- 4.8** 3 vehicles with roof boxes not complying
2 vehicles with accident damage
5 vehicles with dirty interiors and exteriors
2 Hackney vehicles not displaying a Tariff Card
1 Hackney Vehicle with an uncalibrated Taxi Meter
3 vehicles with lighting defects
1 vehicle with an illegal number plate

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATION

- 5.1** There are no financial implications.

6.0 OTHER MATERIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1** None.