

Extract from the minutes of Licensing Committee 9th September 2009

25 **DRIVERS' PANEL RESPONSIBILITIES**

INFORMATION: Consideration was given to a report on proposed amendments to the Scheme of Delegation set out in the Council's Constitution in respect of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Drivers' Licences

It was reported that currently the Constitution required the Drivers' Panel to determine an application for a driver's licence where the driver had six or more penalty points on his/her DVLA driving licence, and/or an unspent disqualification, and/or a criminal record. This had resulted in an increase in the number of Drivers' Panel meetings being held and had led to some applicants, who had appeared before the Drivers' Panel previously, having to appear before the Panel again upon the renewal of their annual licence. This requirement applied even though there may not have been any change to the driver's circumstances, for example they had not incurred additional penalty points on their DVLA driver's licence; received a conviction, caution, or complaint; or received penalty points under the Council's Administrative Penalty Points scheme, since the grant of their last driver's licence. In the circumstances, it was proposed that the Scheme of Delegation should be amended to avoid Drivers' Panel meetings having to be held and to reduce the amount of time spent by Members and Officers in dealing with applications.

DECISION: That it be **Recommended to full Council** that the Scheme of Delegation contained within the Constitution be amended to authorise the Licensing Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Licensing Committee, to approve applications for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers' licences and dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle drivers' licences where the applicant has six or more penalty points on their DVLA driver's licence, but has been licensed by the Council in the last 12 months and there has been no change to his/her circumstances since the last application was considered by the Drivers' Panel, namely:-

No suspension, or revocation of the Hackney Carriage and/or Private Hire Vehicle driver's licence;

No further convictions revealed by a Criminal Records Bureau check;

No further endorsements on the applicant's DVLA Licence;

No complaints, or breaches of conditions;

No Penalty Points under Braintree District Council's Administrative Penalty Points scheme