

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

24 September 2021 at 9.30 am

Present: Councillors Blanchard-Cooper, Cooper and Daniells.

Officers in attendance were:

Caroline Perry – Legal Services Manager
Sarah Meeten – Licensing Team Manager
Louise Dewberry – Licensing Officer
Glenn James – Licensing Officer
Jane Fulton – Committee Services Manager
Andrew Bishop – Committee Services Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Councillor Cooper was elected Chair for the meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

3. EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Sub-Committee

RESOLVED

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and accredited representatives of newspapers be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds it may involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

4. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE - EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Chair confirmed that this application had been deferred.

Licensing Sub-Committee - 24.09.21

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE FIT AND PROPER STATUS OF A LICENSED DRIVER - EXEMPT PARAGRAPH 1 OF PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 12A OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

The Sub-Committee received a report from the Licensing Officer which set out the detail of a renewal application for a hackney carriage/private hire driver licence in the context of the behaviour of a driver following an incident that was reported to the Licensing Authority.

The applicant acknowledged that he had been at fault and advised that throughout his 22 years of service he had not encountered a situation such as this. The Licensing Officer confirmed that the driver had held a licence with the Licensing Authority for 12 years and that throughout that time, no complaints had been made about him.

Having viewed a social media video which had been submitted as evidence, all parties then left the room to enable Members to determine the application.

Having taken account of the nature of the situation, the long service and the clean driving licence of the applicant, and in assessing the action it could take, the Sub-Committee considered greatly the safety of the travelling public which it acknowledged had to be of paramount concern, the Sub-Committee, therefore

RESOLVED

That the renewal application be granted and that five penalty points be registered against the driver for offensive language for a period of twelve months and a written strict warning as to his future behaviour.

All parties were recalled and advised of the decision.

In confirming the Sub-Committee's deliberations, the Chair re-emphasised to the driver that instances of improper conduct were reviewed very seriously and a record was maintained of complaints against individual drivers, which if repeated would result in enforcement action or other sanctions in view of a driver's record.

(The meeting concluded at 10.40 am)