



TAXI AND GENERAL SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY, 19TH APRIL 2017 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor C.J. Gordon - Chair

Councillors:

D. Bolter, Mrs P. Cook

Together with:

A. Dicks (Assistant Licensing Manager), J. Lloyd (Senior Licensing Administrator), J. Williams (Solicitor), R. Barrett (Committee Services Officer)

Together with:

Licensed driver (Mr X) and his legal representative

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. EXEMPT MATTER

Members considered the public interest test certificate from the Proper Officer and concluded that on balance the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information and it was

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the likely disclosure to them of exempt information as identified in paragraph 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

Members were informed that information had been received which suggested that a licensed driver may no longer be considered fit and proper to hold a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence, and therefore the matter had been referred to the Taxi and General Sub Committee for determination.

It was explained that allegations regarding inappropriate behaviour by Mr X whilst transporting passengers had been brought to the attention of the Licensing Department. In light of this information, the Licensing Authority are required under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to consider and determine whether the individual remains a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence.

The Sub Committee considered the report of the Assistant Licensing Manager and the statements attached to that report in relation to the allegations regarding inappropriate behaviour by Mr X whilst transporting passengers. The Sub Committee were also referred to the Council's Fitness Criteria for Drivers and Operators and the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, which sets out the fitness criteria for drivers and the relevance of criminal or unsatisfactory behaviour. The Sub Committee carefully listened to Mr X's explanation of the incidents in question, and considered the verbal submissions made by his legal representative in relation to the allegations against Mr X.

Having regard to the Officer's report and all the representations made, the Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that Mr X be allowed to retain his existing licence, subject to a letter of warning as to his future conduct for a period of six months being sent. Members were of the view that the events which occurred were interpreted by the complainants as nuisance and/or harassment, and reminded Mr X that he needs to be aware of how people may interpret certain gestures and comments, regardless of his intention.

The Legal Advisor informed all parties present that any person aggrieved by the decision had 21 days following receipt of the written Decision Notice to appeal to the local Magistrates Court.

The meeting closed at 3.26 p.m.

CHAIR