



TAXI AND GENERAL SUB COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - PENALLTA HOUSE,
TREDOMEN, YSTRAD MYNACH ON FRIDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER, 2018 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT

Councillor D.W.R. Preece - Chair

Councillors:

M. Davies, J. Simmonds

Together with:

L. Morgan (Licensing Manager), J. Lloyd (Senior Licensing Officer), T. Rawson (Solicitor), E. Sullivan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

Together with:

Licensed Driver (Mr C)
Legal Representative (Mr M)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. EXEMPT MATTER - APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE AND EXEMPTION FROM THE DISPLAY OF VEHICLE LICENCE PLATE

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 paragraphs 12, 13 and 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. EXEMPT MATTER - LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

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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 and 12 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE AND EXEMPTION FROM THE DISPLAY OF VEHICLE LICENCE PLATE

The Sub Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager and Members were referred to the Council's Vehicle Specification and Private Hire Vehicle Conditions of Licence. They also carefully listened to Mr C's explanation of the circumstances surrounding his application and his reasons for why the Sub Committee should depart from the policy in respect of the age of the vehicle and grant the licence.

Having regard to the Officer's report and all the representations made, and for the reasons disclosed at the meeting, the Sub Committee by majority RESOLVED that Mr C's application for a hackney carriage/private hire vehicle licence be refused on the grounds that exceptional circumstances do not exist to depart from the normal policy in respect of the age of the vehicle.

The Sub Committee accepted that the applicant may occasionally carry out work on behalf of corporate or executive clients, but held that the evidence was that no such client had requested an updated vehicle of a prestigious nature from the applicant. The Sub Committee accepted that whilst the applicant's vehicle is of a good quality, similar comparative vehicles were licensed with the Caerphilly fleet and they were of the view that this particular vehicle is not sufficiently unique for the normal age policy to be departed from.

The applicant was informed of his right of appeal within 21 days following receipt of the written decision notice to appeal to the local Magistrates Court

6. LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE / PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVERS

The Sub Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager and Members were referred to the Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Drivers Policy and Conditions and Fitness Criteria for Drivers and Operators. They also carefully listened to representations made on behalf of Mr M by his legal representative and considered supporting documents tabled by the representative at the meeting.

Having regard to the Officer's report and all the representations made, and for the reasons disclosed at the meeting, the Sub Committee unanimously RESOLVED that the hackney carriage/private hire vehicle driver's licence held by Mr M be revoked, on the grounds that the individual is no longer a fit and proper person to hold such a licence. The Sub Committee held concerns as to the character of the driver in view of the nature of the conviction recorded against him, and gave consideration to the overriding need to safeguard the public in this regard.

The representative was informed of the right of appeal within 21 days following receipt of the written decision notice to appeal to the local Magistrates Court.

The Chair thanked all parties for their attendance and the meeting closed at 4.00 p.m.