

Minutes of	General Licensing Sub-Committee
Meeting date	Wednesday, 18 October 2023
Members present:	Councillors Jane Bell (Chair), Hilary Bedford, James Gleeson and John Rainsbury
Officers:	Tasneem Safdar (Shared Legal Services Team Leader), Chris Ward (Licensing Manager), Sushma Nayee (Solicitor) and Ben Storey (Democratic and Member Services Officer)
Public:	0

# 24 Apologies for absence

None – all members were present.

# 25 Declarations of Any Interest

No interests were declared.

## 26 Procedure

The Chair outlined the meeting procedure that was to be followed, as included within the agenda pack.

## 27 Exclusion of the Press and Public

### **Resolved:**

That the press and public be excluded for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

## 28 New Driver Application

The Licensing Manager, Mr Chris Ward outlined a confidential report of the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and explained the application was referred to members for a decision as the applicant had not been resident in the UK for a period of ten years and was unable to obtain a Certificate of Conduct from their country of birth for the period prior to their arrival in the UK, as required by the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

The applicant was present at the hearing.

Members were requested to consider the report and decide whether to grant or refuse the application, taking into consideration all evidence put before them including the circumstances in which the applicant departed their country of birth.

When summing up the Licensing Manager explained that members were required to determine whether the applicant was considered to be a 'fit and proper person' to be granted a licence considering their circumstances. The Licensing Manager also explained that the sub-committee can depart from the policy if they deem there to be 'exceptional circumstances' and requested members consider if this was the case.

The applicant answered a number of questions from Members and the Legal Officer regarding their current employment, their ongoing academic studies and their reasons for wanting to acquire a taxi license.

In reaching its decision the sub-committee considered the following:

- 1. Both Written and Oral Evidence presented in connection with the hearing
- 2. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976/Town Police Clauses Act 1847 (where applicable)
- 3. Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy Section 1.7
- 4. The Statutory Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Standards guidance
- 5. The Statutory fit and proper person test.

# Members resolved: -

To grant the Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Chair

Date