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## GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE 12/11/15

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**PRESENT:** Councillors: Annwen Hughes, W. Tudor Owen and Angela Russell

**OFFICERS:** Geraint B. Edwards (Solicitor), Sheryl Le Bon Jones (Licensing Manager), Heilyn Williams (Licensing Officer) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

### 1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman, Councillor Tudor Owen, welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies were received.

### 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

### 3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

### 4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 12 and 13, Part 4, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. These paragraphs apply because the individuals in question are entitled to privacy and there is no overriding public interest that requires the disclosure of personal information relating to those individuals, nor their identities. Consequently, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

### 5. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE - MR A

- a) The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.
- b) The Licensing Officer presented the written report on the application received from Mr A for a new hackney/private hire driver's licence. It was explained that a statement of convictions had been submitted, and due to the fact that the crimes remained relevant to the licensing field, the Committee was requested to consider the application in accordance with the DBS record, and in accordance with the guidance on relevant crimes and convictions. It was noted that the applicant had a clean driving licence since 2011.
- c) The applicant was invited to expand on his application. He submitted two letters which included a reference for him. It was acknowledged that the crimes disclosed were correct. He elaborated that he was looking for work in order to support his family and that he had been offered a job with a local taxi company.
- ch) The applicant withdrew from the room while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.

- d) After detailed consideration, the Sub-committee decided that the applicant was suitable and appropriate to be granted a hackney/private hire licence and the application was approved. The Sub-committee felt that the crimes had occurred outside the timescales included in the relevant guidelines. The applicant was wished well in his new post and he was encouraged to adhere to the rules and continue with a responsible attitude.

RESOLVED to approve Mr A's application for a hackney/private hire driver's licence.

## **6. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE - MR B**

- a) The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.
- b) The Licensing Officer presented the written report on the application received from Mr B for a new hackney/private hire driver's licence. It was noted that a statement of convictions had been submitted, together with information from North Wales Police and the Council's Licensing Unit. The Committee had been requested to consider the application in accordance with the record, and in accordance with the guidance on relevant crimes and convictions.
- c) The applicant was invited to expand on his application. It was acknowledged that the information which had been disclosed was accurate, and he further confirmed that the court case was not progressing. He explained that he wanted to continue as a taxi driver, and the reason he had not renewed his licence was due to the fact that the correspondence had been sent to a different address. He noted that he had been offered a job with a local taxi company and that he was volunteering in the meantime.
- ch) The Owner of the Taxi Company supported Mr B's application, and he confirmed that the applicant had worked for him for six years and that he had been discharged as a driver as he had not renewed his licence. It was noted that the applicant was a very reliable individual and that a post was available for Mr B should the licence be approved.
- d) The applicant and the owner of the Taxi Company withdrew from the room while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.
- dd) Having considered the evidence in detail, the Sub-committee decided to defer consideration of the application. Under the circumstances, and in line with paragraph 14.1 of the Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire, the Sub-committee decided to defer consideration of the application until any prosecution case regarding the above allegations had come to an end.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of Mr B's application for a hackney/private hire driver's licence.

## **7. APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE LICENCE - MR C**

- a) The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.
- b) The Licensing Officer presented the written report on the application received from Mr C for a new hackney/private hire driver's licence. It was noted that a

statement of convictions had been submitted which included several offences relevant to the licensing field together with additional information from Isle of Anglesey County Council. It was highlighted that the Licensing Unit's recommendation had been that Mr C was not suitable to be considered as a hackney carriage / private hire driver in Gwynedd at present.

The Committee had been requested to consider the application in accordance with the record, and in accordance with the guidance on relevant crimes and convictions.

- c) The applicant was invited to expand on his application. It was acknowledged that the information disclosed was accurate. He expanded on his application and noted that he wished to work as a taxi driver in Gwynedd as one day of work with Anglesey was not sufficient.
- ch) The applicant withdrew from the room while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.
- d) After detailed consideration, the Sub-committee decided that the applicant did not meet the requirements of a suitable individual to be licensed as a hackney carriage / private hire driver in Gwynedd, as some of the convictions remained within the relevant guideline period.

RESOLVED to refuse Mr C's application for a hackney/private hire driver's licence.

The Solicitor reported that the decision would be formally confirmed via a letter, and he notified the applicant of his right to appeal the decision within 21 days of receiving that letter.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.30 pm

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**CHAIRMAN**