

GENERAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE 03.11.15

Present: Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams (Chair), Councillors Ann Williams and Elfed Williams

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

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Chair, Councillor Eryl Jones-Williams. The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present.

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.

With the applicant's consent, Councillor Angela Russell (reserve member for the Licensing Sub-committee) was allowed to observe the meeting in order to familiarise herself with the procedure for a hearing.

5. APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

- a) 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 highlighted that the applicant was a courteous person, that he had kept his appointments and had been prepared to disclose personal information and had collaborated with the department. It was also noted that he had a clean driving licence since 2011.
- b) The applicant was invited to expand on his application. It was acknowledged that the crimes disclosed were correct. He elaborated that he was looking for less laborious work as he was getting older and he noted that he had been offered a job with a local taxi company.

Supporting Mr A's application was the Owner of the Taxi Company and he confirmed that he had known the applicant for some years and that he had a job available for Mr A should the licence be approved.

- c) The applicant and the Taxi Company owner withdrew from the chamber while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.

- ch) After detailed consideration, the Sub-committee decided that the applicant was a suitable person to be granted a hackney/private hire licence and the application was approved. The Sub-committee felt that the crimes were historical and that they had occurred outside the timescales included in the relevant guidelines. The Sub-committee was grateful to the applicant for his willingness to collaborate with the department and to the owner of the company for his support. The applicant was wished well in his new post.

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

The meeting commenced at 10:00am and concluded at 10:30am.