
GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE 29/02/16

Present:

Councillor Eryl Jones Williams (Chairman), Councillors Louise Hughes and Annwen Daniels.

Officers:

Geraint B. Edwards (Solicitor), Heilyn Williams (Licensing Officer) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by the Chairman, Councillor Eryl Jones Williams. The panel and the officers were introduced to everyone present. An apology was received from Sheryl Le Bon (Licensing Manager)

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 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. These paragraphs should apply because the individuals in question were entitled to privacy and there was no overriding interest that required 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

- 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 noted that a statement of convictions had been submitted, and due to the fact that crimes which remained relevant to the licensing field had been included in the statement, 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.
- b) The applicant was invited to expand on the application. It was acknowledged that the disclosed offences were correct but were now historical. He noted that he had a clean driving licence since he passed his driving test in 2001. He highlighted that he understood that he had a duty as a taxi driver to take

care of his passengers and that there was an element of confidentiality to his post. He was willing to receive training.

The owner of a local Taxi Company supported Mr A's application and he confirmed that he had known the applicant for some years. He noted that the applicant was a courteous, reliable and honest person and that a post was available for Mr A should the licence be approved.

- c) Two references that had been received were acknowledged.
- d) The applicant and the owner of the Taxi Company withdrew from the room while the Sub-committee members discussed the application.
- ch) As they reached their decision, the Sub-committee had considered the following factors along with the requirements of 'Gwynedd Council's Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriages and Private Hire.'
 1. That the applicant had previous convictions for offences involved with drink-driving and violence.
 2. The applicant's explanation about the circumstances involving those convictions had been acceptable.
 3. The convictions were for historical offences (over ten years ago) and had occurred outside the timescale included in the relevant guidelines.
 4. The applicant had not accumulated any conviction for offences involved with drink-driving since receiving a driving licence in 2001.
 5. His prospective employer trusted him as a prospective employee in his taxi company.

RESOLVED that the applicant was a fit and proper person to be granted a hackney/private hire driver's licence and Mr A's application for a hackney/private hire driver's licence was approved.

The Sub-committee was grateful to the applicant for his honesty and to the employer for his support. The applicant was wished well in his new post.

The meeting commenced at 11.00 am and concluded at 11.50 am

CHAIRMAN