

Present: Councillor Pat Vaughan (*in the Chair*),
Councillor Loraine Woolley, Councillor
Kathleen Brothwell, Councillor Adrianna McNulty and
Councillor Ronald Hills

Apologies for Absence: Councillor Andy Kerry

35. Confirmation of Minutes 29 November 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2017 were confirmed.

36. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were received.

37. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of 'exempt information' as defined by Section 100I and Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

38. To Interview an Application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence who is unable to Provide a Certificate of Good Conduct [12/2017]

The Licensing Officer:

- a. presented the report and explained that the applicant had been unable to provide a certificate of good conduct from his country of origin, Iraq
- b. reported that the applicant came to the UK in June 2002 and was granted British citizenship in June 2011
- c. stated that the applicant had held a full UK driving licence since February 2012
- d. advised that the applicant had passed the knowledge test on his second attempt and had achieved a low risk result on the DSA Taxi Driving Assessment.

The Sub-Committee questioned the applicant about his reasons for applying for a Private Hire driver's Licence and was satisfied with the responses given. The applicant confirmed that he had been offered a position with a taxi firm should he be fortunate to be granted a licence.

The decision was made as follows:

That the Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted.

The reasons for the decision:

1. The Sub-Committee felt that the applicant presented himself well and that he came across as open and honest with a genuine work ethic.
2. The Sub-Committee did not have any concerns over the suitability of the applicant and was sympathetic to the difficulties faced by him in obtaining a certificate of good conduct from his place of origin, Iraq.
3. The applicant had not been convicted of any offences since arriving in the UK and becoming a British Citizen therefore there was no reason to doubt that he was a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver's licence.

39. To Interview an Expired Licence Holder who is unable to Provide a Certificate of Good Conduct [01/2018]

The Licensing officer:

- a. presented the report and explained that the applicant had held a Private Hire Driver's Licence since November 2014 and on 1 November 2017 the licensee had come in for a re-licence appointment
- b. reported that prior to the appointment the driver had informed the Licensing Team that he had been out of the UK between March and October 2017 in Iraq
- c. explained that the applicant had been informed that he would have to await the result of a UK criminal record check and that under current policy he would have to appear before the Licensing Sub-Committee as he was unable to provide a certificate of good conduct from Iraq

The Sub-Committee questioned the applicant about his reasons for being out of the UK for seven months and was satisfied with his responses. He explained in detail how he had tried to get back to the UK but was not allowed to purchase a ticket back to the UK due to election processes in Iraq.

The decision was made as follows:

That the Private Hire Driver's Licence be granted.

The reasons for the decision

1. The applicant presented himself well and was very honest in his answers.
2. The Sub-Committee appreciated the fact that he had volunteered the information concerning his absence from the UK to the Licensing Team.
3. The Sub-Committee agreed that there had been no change in circumstances since the applicant had been approved for his first licence.
4. The Sub-Committee did not have any concerns over the suitability of the applicant and was sympathetic to the difficulties faced by him in obtaining a certificate of good conduct from his place of origin, Iraq.

5. The Sub-Committee believed that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver's Licence.