

No.

PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Remote meeting held on 29th April, 2025.

The Committee agenda is available [here](#).

The recording of the meeting is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor P. Drake (Chair); Councillor J.M. Norman (Vice-Chair); Councillors G. Bruce, C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn, W.A. Hennessy, M.J.G. Morgan and R. Sivagnanam.

ANNOUNCEMENT –

Prior to the commencement of the business of the Committee, the Chair read the following statement: “May I remind everyone present that the meeting will be live streamed as well as recorded via the internet and this recording archived for future viewing”.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

These was received from Councillors L. Burnett, V.P. Driscoll, R. Fisher, H.C. Hamilton, N.B. Marshallsea and M.R. Wilkinson.

MINUTES –

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March, 2025 be approved as a correct record.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –

No declarations were received.

APPLICATION TO WAIVE AGE POLICY GUIDELINES FOR LICENSING OF PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE (DEH) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager, who advised that the Public Protection Licensing Committee had adopted age policy guidelines which detail how old vehicles could be when first licensed as a hackney carriage or a private hire vehicle. This application for the grant of a hackney carriage licence fell outside of this policy, and therefore the Committee were asked to determine the application.

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The Officer added that Members were not required to determine whether the vehicle was safe, and that if the Committee were minded to waive the guidelines, the vehicle would undergo testing to ensure its safety before a license would be issued.

Committee discussed the matter, including the point that the vehicle missed the renewal deadline due to unforeseen repairs required, and that if this had been a renewal application, the age policy guidelines would not have been applied. Members also raised concerns over setting a precedent for older vehicles to bypass the guidelines. In response, Officers advised that each such application to waive the age policy would need to be presented to the Committee and be judged on its own merits.

Having fully considered the matter, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T the age guidelines be waived and that the vehicle be presented for testing.

Reason for decision

Committee were content to allow the vehicle to be presented to the Alps Depot for testing, which would determine whether the vehicle was mechanically fit to be licensed.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC –

RESOLVED – T H A T under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 4 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act, the relevant paragraphs of the Schedule being referred to in brackets after the minute heading.

APPLICATION FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE – S. (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager, who explained alleged issues that had been reported as having occurred while Driver S. had taken 'the knowledge' taxi drivers' test. Driver S. was in attendance at the meeting and made their verbal representations to Committee regarding this matter.

Members were requested to determine whether Driver S. was a 'fit and proper person' to continue with the application process in order to hold a Vale of Glamorgan Taxi Driver's Licence.

Having fully considered the matter, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T after careful consideration of the facts of the report and the information provided at the meeting, the application for a hackney carriage and

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private hire driver's license be refused.

Reason for decision

Having regard to concerns that the Committee had regarding the information presented at the meeting and because, overall, the committee were not satisfied as to the honesty, integrity and suitability of the applicant to hold a Vale of Glamorgan Taxi Driver's Licence.

GRANT OF LICENCES – R. (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager, who advised that Members were requested to determine whether Driver R. was a 'fit and proper person to hold a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's License, given that they had previously had a license revoked by another Local Authority. The report and appendices outlined the circumstances of the revocation, as well as relevant background and motoring history checks that Driver R. had obtained as part of the application process.

Driver R. was in attendance at the meeting and made their verbal representations to Committee regarding this matter.

Committee discussed the matter at length, including the circumstances surrounding the license revocation, and Driver R.'s understanding of the requirements of a taxi driver's license.

Having fully considered the case, and having put the matter to a vote, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H AT Driver R. be allowed to continue with the license application process.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the facts contained in the report, to the information presented by the Applicant, and the discussions at the meeting and because, overall, the Committee did not feel there were enough grounds to refuse Driver R. the opportunity to complete the process of application and testing required of applicants for a Vale of Glamorgan Taxi Driver's License.

DISCIPLINARY FOR A CURRENT HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER – A. (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The report was presented by the Licensing Team Manager, who advised that Members were requested to determine whether Driver A., as an existing Taxi driver remained a fit and proper person to hold a license, after failing to notify the

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Licensing Authority of motoring convictions received in accordance with the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Conditions, as well as not declaring these convictions on their application to renew their Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Driver A. was in attendance at the meeting and made their verbal representations to Committee regarding this matter.

Committee discussed the circumstances around Driver A.'s motoring convictions and the non-disclosure of such, including the level of accessibility of guidance for drivers around disclosures that are required as part of their license conditions.

Having fully considered the matter, Committee subsequently:

RESOLVED – T H A T the Committee is satisfied that Driver A. remains a fit and proper person to retain a hackney carriage and private hire driver's license, but that Driver A. be advised verbally that there is a requirement to disclose any future driving endorsements, and that this verbal advice is referenced in a further warning letter regarding the matter, which is to be sent to Driver A.

Reason for decision

Having regard to the information provided in the report and at the meeting, and to ensure that Driver A. understands the requirements of their license.

DISCIPLINARY FOR A CURRENT HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER – M. (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –

The Applicant had advised Officers that they were unavailable on the date of this meeting and therefore unable to attend, but that they would like the opportunity to make representations verbally to the Committee regarding their case.

RESOLVED – T H A T at the request of the Applicant, this matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

Reason for decision

To allow the Applicant to be present at the meeting whilst his case was discussed.