

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

20 JUNE 2019

PRESENT

Councillor A. Duffield (in the Chair).

Councillors D. Jarman (Vice-Chair), B. Brotherton, D. Bunting, D. Butt, S. Taylor, S. Thomas and M.J. Welton

In attendance

G. Levy	Regulatory Services Mgr (Trading Standards & Licensing),
J. Boyle	Licensing Team Leader,
K. Hinchliffe	Senior Licensing Officer
J. Spence	Solicitor (Corporate & Commercial),
R. Worsley	Democratic and Scrutiny Officer.

1. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions from members of the public were received.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th April 2019 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. GREATER MANCHESTER MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR TAXI LICENSING AND THE TRAFFORD LICENSING POLICY

Members received a report of the Head of Regulatory Services providing details of proposals to introduce common, minimum standards for Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Vehicles, Drivers and Operators licensed by Licensing Authorities across Greater Manchester. The report also outlined details of proposals; to consult across Greater Manchester on the minimum standard and introduce a new Trafford licensing policy.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions. The Licensing Team Leader advised that a briefing note from Councillor Freeman had been circulated with additional information and that a further report would follow after the consultation process.

The Chair of the Sub-Committee advised Members that there would be an opportunity at a future meeting for a further presentation with a question and answer session.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the content of the report be noted

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- (2) That the proposal to support TfGM in the administration of a consultation process on propose GM Minimum Standards be noted
- (3) That the proposal to administer a consultation process on a new Trafford Licensing Policy be approved.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF REVISED POLICY ON A KNOWLEDGE TEST AND CHANGES TO THE CURRENT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST FOR ALL NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER APPLICANTS

Members received a report of the Head of Regulatory Services regarding the planned implementation of a knowledge test and changes to the current English language test for all new hackney carriage and private hire driver applicants.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and discussions followed. In answer to a question raised by Councillor Thomas, the Regulatory Services Manager advised he would look into the resit time allowed at other neighbouring local authorities.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the proposal to introduce the knowledge test at the initial stage, before any other aspects of the application process are applied, be approved.
- (2) That the proposal to offer candidates failing the knowledge test a chance of a re-sit after 6 months; and that those failing the re-sit wait a further 12 months, be approved.
- (3) That the implementation date of 1st September 2019 for such changes be noted.

5. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from this meeting during consideration of the following items on the agenda because of the likelihood of disclosure of “exempt information” which falls within one or more descriptive category or categories of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, as specified.

6. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - CONVICTION WHICH EXCEEDS THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Head of Regulatory Services submitted a report requesting Members to consider an application for the grant of a Private Hire driver's licence.

The applicant attended the meeting to enable Members to give the matter their full consideration.

The applicant gave his version of the offence and answered questions from the Sub-Committee.

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The Sub-Committee considered the report and the evidence given at the meeting and concluded that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire driver's licence.

RESOLVED: That Mr. N. A's application for a Private Hire driver's licence be refused.

7. APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE - CONVICTION WHICH EXCEEDS THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

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The applicant attended the meeting to enable Members to give the matter their full consideration.

The applicant gave his version of the offence and answered questions from the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee considered the report and the evidence given at the meeting and concluded that the applicant was not a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire driver's licence.

RESOLVED: That Mr. M. S. B's application for a Private Hire driver's licence be refused.

The meeting commenced at 6.30 pm and finished at 8.32 pm