

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 9 June 2022

PRESENT:

Councillor Churchill, in the Chair.
Councillor Salmon, Vice Chair.
Councillors Finn, Haydon, Partridge, Rennie and Tuffin.

Also in attendance: Sharon Day (Lawyer), Rachael Hind (Licensing Service Manager), Steve Forshaw (Senior Enforcement Officer) and Helen Rickman (Democratic Advisor).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.50 am.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

1. **To Note the Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair for the Municipal Year 2022 / 2023**

Members noted the appointment of Councillor Churchill as Chair and Councillor Salmon as Vice Chair for the forthcoming municipal year 2022/23.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made by Members in accordance with the code of conduct.

3. **Minutes**

The Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2022 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

5. **Appeal Cases**

There had been no appeal cases since the last Committee meeting.

6. **Exempt Information**

The Committee agreed that under Section 1004A) of the Local Government Act, 1972 to exclude the press and the public from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in

paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

7. **Confidential Minutes**

The Committee agreed that the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

8. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

The Committee having:

- considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- heard from the applicant and heard the responses to questions raised;
- taken the following into account:
 - the law, policy and factual information contained in the report;
 - all that was said by the applicant.

Agreed to grant the applicant a private hire driver's licence subject to successfully completing the Plymouth Ambassador's course prior to being given the licence. The applicant must also successfully complete the VRQ driver qualification in transporting passengers by taxi or private hire or its equivalent within the first 12 months of being granted the licence. The Committee were satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper. In so finding they acknowledged that they were acting outside their policy but they had heard clear, compelling reasons to do so.

9. **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver Licence**

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- considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- heard from the applicant and heard the responses to questions raised;
- taken the following into account:
 - the law, policy and factual information contained in the report;
 - all that was said by the applicant;
- asked itself whether it would want a person they cared for or a vulnerable person to be driven in a vehicle driven by the applicant. The answer to that question was no.

Agreed to refuse to grant the licence as the applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence.