

No.

## **PUBLIC PROTECTION LICENSING COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a Remote Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2024

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

The Meeting recording is available [here](#).

Present: Councillor P. Drake (Chair); Councillor J.M. Norman (Vice-Chair);  
Councillors G. Bruce, L. Burnett, V.P. Driscoll, C.P. Franks, E. Goodjohn,  
W.A. Hennessy, N.B. Marshallsea, M.J.G. Morgan, R. Sivagnanam and S.T. William.

### **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 were received from Councillors H.C. Hamilton and M.R. Wilkinson.

### **MINUTES –**

RESOLVED – T H A T the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 be approved as a correct record.

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST –**

No declarations were received.

### **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 item of business on the grounds that it involves 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 THE GRANT OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE (DEH) (EXEMPT INFORMATION – PARAGRAPHS 12, 13 AND 14) –**

The report was presented by the Senior Licensing Officer. The Committee were

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asked to determine an application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence which falls outside the Vale of Glamorgan Age Policy Guidelines. The Chair stated that the Applicant had advised that they were unable to attend the meeting, but that they were content for the matter to be heard and determined in their absence, based on the received submissions that had been circulated to Members.

The Senior Licensing Officer and Democratic Services Officer presented to Committee additional submissions of supporting information provided by the Applicant, including two videos and photographs demonstrating repairs that had been carried out on the vehicle, and a supporting letter from the Applicant. The Licensing Officer also confirmed that the vehicle was eight years old, while the guidelines limited applications to grant new licenses to vehicles six years old or less. The Officer also advised that as the applicant had failed to submit a renewal application before the expiry of their licence, due to it being involved in a road traffic accident while in private use and therefore subject to a Suspension Order, Members were asked to determine an application for the grant of a new license for a vehicle which falls outside the age policy.

Several Committee Members raised concerns with the safety and suitability of the vehicle, given that it had been in a road traffic accident, and may have sustained more damage than the photographic and video submissions could demonstrate any repairs to. The Principal Lawyer subsequently confirmed that the decision for members was whether to waive the age policy guidelines on this occasion, or to refuse the application and provide reasons for the refusal. The Principal Lawyer also clarified that it was not necessary for Committee to determine the vehicle's mechanical fitness for a taxi license, because if Committee were minded to waive the age policy guidelines, the vehicle would subsequently need to pass the Council's MOT testing process in order to be licensed.

Several Committee Members subsequently advised that they would be keen to see rigorous testing of the vehicle take place, taking into consideration any available information from the Applicant regarding the road traffic accident it was involved in, and any damage sustained as a result, particularly that which was not visible on the exterior of the vehicle and in the evidence submitted. The Licensing Officer confirmed that they could advise colleagues undertaking testing of the vehicle, as such.

Having fully considered the matter, and following a formal vote being cast with a majority in favour, Committee subsequently

**RESOLVED – T H A T** the age policy guidelines be waived in respect of the application on this occasion, subject to the vehicle passing the testing stage of the application, before a licence would be issued.

#### Reason for decision

Having regard to the contents of the report and to discussions at the meeting.