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Chief Executive

AGENDA

Committee:	LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
Date and Time:	Thursday 8th August 2019 at 4.00pm.
Venue:	Council Chamber
Membership:	Councillors Cross, E. Egan and Greig
Officers attending:	Mel Harris - Head of Licensing & Safer Communities Andrew Smith – Corporate Legal Adviser
Committee Enquiries:	Cheryl Salmon, Ext. No. 2454

PART I

(Business to be taken in public)

- 1. Appointment of Chairman**
- 2. Procedure for the Sub-Committee**
- 3. Appeal against refusal to grant a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Applicant X**
The report of the Head of Licensing and Safer Communities is attached.
- 4. Decision**

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LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
PROCEDURE FOR TAXI DRIVER APPEAL

1. Introductions

- a. Chairman introduces Panel Members to the applicant.
- b. Chairman identifies officers and their roles.
- c. Applicant identifies themselves, any representative and any accompanying persons. They also identify who intends to present the case.

2. Case Summary by the Head of Licensing and Safer Communities

As shown at Agenda Item 3.

3. The Applicant's Submission

The applicant or their representative will submit their case

4. Questions from Panel

Opportunity for any questions from Panel to either side.

5. Adjournment

Proceedings will be adjourned while the Panel withdraw to consider its decision. During this time the Clerk will accompany the Panel to record the decision. The Committee may request the presence of the Legal Advisor to give them legal advice.

6. Decision

The Panel will reconvene and the Chairman will announce the decision.

7. Conclusion

The Chairman will close the proceedings

LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

8 August 2019

Subject: Appeal against refusal to grant a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Applicant X

Report of: Head of Licensing and Safer Communities

1. Purpose of Report

To consider the appeal made by the applicant X against the refusal by the Council to grant a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

2. Background

X attended the Licensing Department in February 2019 to apply for a Private Hire Driver's Licence. The Council refused to grant the application because X had a number of previous convictions and cautions as follows:

- Possess cannabis - A class C controlled drug (17/11/07)
- Possessing controlled drug class C (17/11/07)
- Possessing controlled drug class C (17/11/07)

A copy of these convictions and cautions is attached at Appendix 1.

The application for a Private Hire Driver's Licence dated 21/2/2019 is attached at appendix 2.

The legislation relating to the refusal to grant a driver's licence is contained under the provisions of the LG(MP)A 1976, section 51, whereby at 51.(1) subject to the provisions of this part of this Act, a district council shall, on receipt of an application from any person for the grant of a licence to drive private hire vehicles, grant to that person a driver's licence:

Provided that a district council shall not grant a licence-

- (a) unless they are satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence: or
- (b) to any person who has not for at least twelve months been and is not at the date of the application for a driver's licence, the holder of a licence granted under Part III of the Act of 1972 (not being a provisional licence) authorising him to drive a motor car.

- (2) A district council may attach to the grant of a licence under this section such conditions as they may consider reasonably necessary.
- (3) It shall be the duty of a council by which licences are granted in pursuance of this section to enter, in a register maintained by the council for the purpose, the following particulars of each such licence, namely-
 - (a) the name of the person to whom it is granted;
 - (b) the date on which and the period for which granted; and
 - (c) if the licence has a serial number, that number, and to keep the register available at its principal offices for inspection by members of the public during office hours free of charge.

Under S52. Any person aggrieved by –

- (1) the refusal of the district council to grant a driver's licence under section 51 of this Act; or
- (2) any conditions attached to the grant of a driver's licence;

may appeal to a magistrate's court.

3. 'Fit and Proper'

The definition of what is a fit and proper person is not defined in law however the generally accepted test is:

- Would you allow your son, daughter, mother, spouse or other person you care about to get into a vehicle with this person alone?

This definition was supported in the judgement by HHJ Silber in the case of Leeds City Council v Hussain which surrounds the suspension of a driver:

...'the purpose of the power of suspension is to protect the users of licensed vehicles and those who are driven by them and members of the public. Its purpose is to prevent licences being given or used by those who are not suitable people taking into account their driving record, their driving experience, their sobriety, mental and physical fitness, honesty and that they are people who would not take advantage of their employment to abuse or assault people.'

As X has been convicted of the above convictions and cautions he is not regarded as a fit and proper person to hold a driver's licence and the Council made the decision to refuse the application.

4. Legal implications

Decisions in relation to the grant of a licence give rise to the obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998. The Council will therefore ensure that there is a review hearing before the Licensing Sub-Committee. It should be noted that X

has the right to appeal the decision made by the Council to the Magistrates Court if he is aggrieved by the decision of the Sub-Committee.

5. Options

The Sub-Committee is advised that it has the following options when determining this application.

- (i) Uphold the decision to refuse to grant the Private Hire Driver's Licence.
- (ii) Grant the Private Hire Driver's Licence subject to appropriate conditions.
- (iii) Grant the Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Recommendation

The decision of the Sub Committee is required following proper consideration of the application and any representations made to the Sub Committee.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – DBS certificate

Appendix 2 – Application form

Background Papers:

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/pdfs/ukpga_19760057_en.pdf

Personal Details

Employment Details

Address: [REDACTED]

Employment: [REDACTED]

Other Work: [REDACTED]

Other Work: PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER

Name of Employer: [REDACTED]

Name of Employer: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: 15 OCTOBER 1965

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

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Page 1 of 4

Barling

DRS Fee Charged

CG-Office Number

CSU 15142723

Public Choice

16 MARCH 20

Appendix A: Personal Details

Employment Details

SpaghettiSure

Education applies for

Friedman (1957)

OTHER WORK FORCE PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER

None Declared

Name of Employee _____

5/10/2017 10:55 AM

Counterintelligence Unit

Page 1 of 1

Registered Professional Engineer

Senior of Counsel

THE SOUTH BOROUGHS COMPANY

DISCLOSURE OF DISCLOSURE

STUNTS & PHOTOGRAPHY

Police Records of Convictions, Cautions, Reprimands and Warnings

Disclose

100

Last known location

Alias Name(s) 10

MALE

NONE RECORDED

15 OCTOBER 1985 ROCHFORD

NOT RECORDED

Conviction Details

Ensure OHS

Conviction: ~~Conviction.~~

59

HABDO, DAVID WILLIAM

DISCLOSURE

Offense

Discussion

letterbook - ✓
Payment log - ✓

APPENDIX 2

castlepoint

benfleet | canvey | hadleigh | thundersley

Application for a Private Hire Driver's/Restricted Private Hire Driver's Licence

Delete as appropriate

Surname [REDACTED]
Forename(s) MICHAEL [REDACTED]
Title Miss, Mrs, Ms, Mr, other
Address [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
ESSEX Postcode [REDACTED]
Tel no. [REDACTED]
Date and place of birth ROCHFORD UK [REDACTED]
Present occupation PLASTERER
Present employer SELF-EMPLOYED

For office use only	
Date Received	<u>21/2/2019</u>
Fee	<u>£230</u>
Receipt No	<u>180552</u> <u>21/02/19</u>
DBS sent	<u>21/2/2019</u>
DBS returned	
HC/PH Lic No	
App complete	
Date issued	
Lalpac	
Inland Revenue	
Expiry date	<u>31-3-2021</u>

Have you ever been refused a Hackney Carriage or Private Hire Driver's Licence? NO

If 'Yes', please give expiry date and proprietor N/A

How long have you held a full licence to drive a motor vehicle? 15 YEARS

Have you ever been convicted in court or received any fixed penalty notices? Yes ☒ No ☐

If 'Yes', details of all convictions other than 'spent' convictions, must be shown below any inaccuracy may prejudice the issue of a licence. Are there any court or other proceedings pending against you?

Offence	Court	Date	Penalty

Name of Private Hire proprietor ABC Circuit ABC TAXIS
*If applicable

I hereby confirm that the applicant will be employed by me as a Private Hire Driver or Restricted Private Hire Driver, subject to the Council Issuing a licence for that purpose.

Signature of Private Hire Proprietor *If applicable [REDACTED]

I declare that my answers to the questions above are true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that if I have made an omission or statement I know to be false, my application may be refused without further consideration or if a licence has been issued it will be liable to immediate suspension. I have read and understood the Pre-Licensing Standards and Conditions contained in the Policy document.

Signed [REDACTED] Date 19.2.2019

The information supplied on this form will be held on a computer. Castle Point Borough Council may use this information to check other information supplied by you to the Council. The Council may from time to time disclose some of this information in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1984.

Private Hire Driver's/Restricted Private Hire Driver's Licence

Pre Licensing Standards

In order that your application may be considered and a licence issued, you will be required to:-

- Present with this form, the appropriate fee, your full DVLA driving licence and proof of the right to work in the UK, this may be a passport or other right to work documentation. (Photocopies will not be accepted).
- Undertake a medical examination, which can be completed by the applicant's choice of General Practitioner of Group 2 standard or by a provider who regularly holds appointments at the Council Offices (ask for details) and at your own expense (medical forms can be obtained from the Licensing Unit). Once the form has been completed by a doctor it should be returned to the Licensing Unit. A medical certificate will be returned after the examination of your form confirming that you are medically fit or requesting that you attend for a further examination. A medical examination will be required on first application and thereafter every five years (as set by the Council) until the age of 65 years when a medical will be required every year on your birthday. The Council reserves the right to request additional medical examinations at any time.
- Undergo a knowledge test of the streets in the whole of the Borough of Castle Point, Byelaws and conditions of licence and be the holder of a Drivers Standard Agency (DSA) pass certificate for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire assessment or a current holder of an advanced driving certificate from an officially recognised body. From your 65th birthday 65 years of age this will also be required every three years. This will be at the applicants own expense. (Where an application is made for a Restricted Private Hire Driver's Licence only a driving assessment is required)
- Supply the names and addresses of two people for character references (only required upon initial application)
- Submit a completed Disclosure of Criminal Records form which must show any convictions other than "spent" convictions. Omissions or incorrect statements of a serious nature will render the licence liable to immediate suspension. A routine check will be carried out on applicants on initial application and then every three years.
- Submit an accreditation certificate on Disability Discrimination Awareness Training.
- Be over 21 years of age, and have held a driver's licence for at least three years.
- Not have been convicted or cautioned of a serious criminal offence during the previous three years.
- Not have been convicted of three or more motoring offences during the previous three years.
- Not have been convicted of a serious criminal offence (e.g., causing grievous bodily harm) or a sexual offence during the previous seven years

If your application is approved and all of the Council's requirements are met you will be issued with a licence. The Council's Licences are issued subject to conditions which you must read carefully (these are set out in the Council's policy document which can be obtained from the Licensing Unit).

You may render yourself liable to prosecution for an offence if you fail to comply with the conditions of your licence. Castle Point Borough Council reserves the right to vary these conditions or impose further conditions at any time.

All relevant facts will be taken into account when consideration is given to an application for a drivers licence. Each application will be considered on its own merit and where any doubt exists the applicant will be interviewed by an officer of the Licensing Unit. Any applicant refused a drivers licence on the grounds that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to hold such a licence has a right of appeal initially to the Licensing Sub Committee and the subsequently to the Magistrates Court.

Private Hire Driver's and Restricted Private Hire Drivers Licences are renewable tri-annually as set by the Council.

Fees

Private Hire Driver's*/Restricted Private Hire Driver's Licence*

£

*Delete as appropriate

+ DBS Fee

£

Total £

For Office Use Only	Date	Signed
I confirm that I have independently checked that the application has been properly assessed, is supported by the relevant necessary evidence, all payments have been received and posted on efin and that all of the above actions have been completed before the process has been automated.		
Signed by either the Head of Licensing & Safer Communities or the Strategic Director of Corporate Services		

Please return this form to CPBC, Council Offices, Kiln Road, Benfleet, Essex, SS7 1TF

If you would like a copy of this document in large print, audio tape, Braille, a different format or language please contact the Licensing Unit 01268 882480.