

LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE A - TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2024

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE A HELD IN PERSON IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER - CIVIC OFFICES, ANGEL STREET, BRIDGEND, CF31 4WB ON TUESDAY, 30 APRIL 2024 AT 10:00

Present

Councillor M Lewis – Chairperson

A R Berrow

MJ Kearn

J Llewellyn-Hopkins

J E Pratt

Present Virtually

S J Bletsoe

Officers:

Nimi Chandrasena
Kirsty Evans
Andrea Lee
Oscar Roberts

Democratic Services Officer - Support
Senior Licensing Officer
Senior Lawyer
Business Administrative Apprentice - Democratic Services

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jonathan Pratt declared a prejudicial interest in Item 7 as the party was known to him and left prior to the start of a discussion on item 7.

44. Approval of Minutes

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That the minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee A meetings of 05 th October 2023 and 03 rd January 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record.
Date Decision Made	30 April 2024

45. Grant Of Private Hire Vehicle Licences

Decision Made	<p>The Senior Licensing Officer presented a report which asked the Sub Committee determine three applications for the grant of private hire vehicle licenses which fall outside of the Licensing Committee's age policy guidelines. Thereafter the committee and the applicant left the room to inspect the vehicles.</p> <p>At the outset of the hearing, the Sub-Committee had before it a report from the Council's Licensing Officer which contained details of the 3 vehicles which were the subject of the application.</p> <p>The members of the Sub-Committee inspected all 3 vehicles at the Council offices.</p> <p>The Licensing confirmed the mileage on each of the vehicles as follows:- Vehicle 1 - 177,330 Vehicle 2 - 80,841 Vehicle 3 - 100,926</p> <p>On returning to the Chamber a discussion took place regarding the following points :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The purchase date of the vehicles• The type of work the vehicles were individually used for• The difference between the millage on the paperwork and the millage taken on inspection• The reason vehicles were purchased outside the policy specifications• The financial implications on purchasing newer models• The reason the vehicles were registered only now• How many cars the Applicant already had registered with the authority• Outcome of recent MOT's <p>The Applicant was asked the date the vehicles were purchased and gave the following information to the Sub-Committee: -</p> <p>Vehicle 1 - 15th August 2022 Vehicle 2 - 27th November 2023 Vehicle 3 - 17th October 2023</p> <p>The Applicant informed the Sub-Committee that he had been using the 3 vehicles for weddings, funerals</p>
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and as a Courier vehicle. He also stated that, at the time of the meeting, he had 4 other vehicles licenced with the Council as private hire vehicles.

The Applicant confirmed to the Sub-Committee that 17 plate vehicles were very reliable but that 18 plate Mercedes are renowned as unreliable.

Policy considerations

The sub-committee referred to the 'Policy guidance' contained under 3.2 of the Report.

Findings of the Sub-Committee

Vehicle 1

This vehicle was purchased on the 15th of August 2022 and now has mileage of 177,330. This vehicle is one year outside the age restriction in the policy and if the Applicant had registered the vehicle when he purchased it, it would have fallen within the policy guidelines. The vehicle mileage has increased by more than 40,000 miles since the MOT.

Vehicle 2

This vehicle was purchased on the 27th of November 2023, and it has taken the Applicant 5 months to apply to register the vehicle as a private hire, and it is now 2 years and 6 months outside the policy. The vehicle has 80,841 on the clock which has increased more than 19,000 miles since the MOT.

Vehicle 3

This vehicle was purchased on the 17th of October 2023, and it has taken the Applicant 6 months to apply to register the vehicle as a private hire and it is now 1 year and 11 months outside the Policy. The current mileage on the clock is 100,926. This vehicles mileage has increased more than 50,000 miles since the mot.

Decision of the Sub-Committee

The Sub-Committee took into consideration its policy on first registration of vehicles. The Policy was put in place to ensure the integrity of the fleet and that vehicles are not too old at the time of first registration.

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	<p>The age restrictions on first registration were put in place to ensure the fleet always remains fresher, safer fleet of licensed vehicles. Newer vehicles are less likely to be involved in fatal crashes, due to continual improvements in crash protection features. Mechanical defects also become more common as a vehicle ages, further compromising the safety of the vehicle. As a vehicle ages, it becomes more common for parts and components to fail. Due to the nature of the journeys carried out by private hire vehicles, they are subject to increased wear compared to private vehicle use. For example, vehicle 1 is also used for wedding and funerals and its mileage has increased more than 40,000 miles since its mot. Even if a vehicle has been meticulously maintained it will still be liable for component failure as it ages. The Applicant already has 4 vehicles registered as private hire vehicles so is aware of the registration process and the policy which governs the same. The Applicant did not present these vehicles at the first opportunity which has resulted in them falling further outside the Policy guidelines.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> The Sub-Committee have determined that all 3 vehicles fall outside the policy guidelines and the Applicant did not present them for registration at the first opportunity resulting them falling further outside the guidelines.</p> <p> The Sub-Committee refused the application for those reasons and to ensure the integrity of fleet and that it remains a safe fleet of registered vehicles.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 April 2024

46. Urgent Items

Decision Made	None
Date Decision Made	30 April 2024

47. Exclusion of the Public

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> That under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the
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	<p>Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007, the public was excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business as they contained exempt information as defined in Paragraph 12 of Part 4 and/or Paragraph 21 of Part 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act. Following the application of the public interest test it was resolved that pursuant to the Act referred to above, to consider the following items in private, with the public excluded from the meeting, as it was considered that in all the circumstances relating to the item, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information, because the information would be prejudicial to the applicant so mentioned.</p> <p>The Committee undertook a formal nomination and agreed that Cllr Llewellyn-Hopkins will assume position as Chairperson for the remainder of the meeting as the chairperson was feeling unwell.</p>
Date Decision Made	30 April 2024

48. Grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver's Licence

Decision Made	<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Decision was exempt
Date Decision Made	30 April 2024

To observe further debate that took place on the above items, please click this [link](#)

The meeting closed at 11:36.