

# Public Document Pack

**Date of meeting** Monday, 23rd April, 2018  
**Time** 6.30 pm  
**Venue** Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Merrial Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 2AG  
**Contact** Geoff Durham



**NEWCASTLE  
UNDER LYME**  
**BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Civic Offices  
Merrial Street  
Newcastle-under-Lyme  
Staffordshire  
ST5 2AG

PLEASE NOTE EARLIER START TIME

## Public Protection Committee

### AGENDA

#### PART 1 – CLOSED AGENDA

- 1 GUIDANCE NOTES (FOR INFORMATION)** (Pages 5 - 22)
  - Procedure to be followed by Public Protection Committee.
  - Natural Justice and Fairness.
  - Human Rights Act.
  - Guidelines Relating to the Relevance of Convictions.
- 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive declarations of interest from Members on items included in this agenda.
- 3 Apologies**
- 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** (Pages 23 - 26)  
To consider the minutes of the previous meeting(s).
- 5 DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**  
To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the attached report, because it is likely that there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 7 in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**



**Members:** Councillors Bloor, Dymond, L Hailstones, P Hailstones, S Hambleton (Chair), Matthews, Olszewski, Robinson, Spence, J Tagg, Walklate, P Waring and G White (Vice-Chair)

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Council Chamber and Committee Room 1 are fitted with a loop system. In addition, there is a volume button on the base of the microphones. A portable loop system is available for all other rooms. Should you require this service, please contact Member Services during the afternoon prior to the meeting.

**Members of the Council:** If you identify any personal training/development requirements from any of the items included in this agenda or through issues raised during the meeting, please bring them to the attention of the Democratic Services Officer at the close of the meeting.

**Meeting Quorums :- 16+= 5 Members; 10-15=4 Members; 5-9=3 Members; 5 or less = 2 Members.**

## **FIELD\_TITLE**

Officers will be in attendance prior to the meeting for informal discussions on agenda items.

**NOTE:** THERE ARE NO FIRE DRILLS PLANNED FOR THIS EVENING SO IF THE FIRE ALARM DOES SOUND, PLEASE LEAVE THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FIRE EXIT SIGNS. PLEASE **DO NOT** USE THE LIFTS.

**COUNCIL CHAMBER:** FIRE EXITS ARE AT THE REAR OF THE CHAMBER AT BOTH SIDES AND THIS IS THE SAME FOR OCCUPANTS OF THE PUBLIC GALLERY.

**COMMITTEE ROOMS:** EXIT VIA THE WAY YOU ARRIVED AT THE MEETING OR AT THE FAR END OF THE COUNCIL CHAMBER.

ON EXITING THE BUILDING, PLEASE ASSEMBLE AT THE REAR OF THE ASPIRE HOUSING OFFICE OPPOSITE THE CIVIC OFFICES. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE BUILDING UNTIL ADVISED TO DO SO.

This page is intentionally left blank

## **PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE IN DETERMINING HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENCES**

- The Chairman will open the proceedings by stating the nature of the matter which is to be considered (first application/renewal/suspension/revocation), whether the proceedings concern a vehicle, drivers' or operators' licence (in the case of Private Hire Cars) or a driver's or vehicle licence (in the case of Hackney Carriages) and the name of the applicant or licence holder.
- The Chairman will introduce him/herself and the members of the committee, the Clerk to the committee and any other officer present.
- The Chairman will ask the officers to confirm whether or not the formal requirements in respect of the matter to be considered have been complied with. In the case of a proposed suspension or revocation of a licence, refusal to renew or a new licence application, the Chairman will ask the Licensing Officer to confirm whether or not the requisite 14 days' prior notice has been served on the licence holder.
- If satisfied as to the formal requirements, the matter under consideration will then be outlined by the Licensing Officer.
- The committee will consider the merits of the application or proposed suspension/revocation and the report of the officers. The committee may ask the officers for clarification of any points in issue.
- The Chairman will then invite the applicant or licence holder to make any representations. The applicant or licence holder may make his/her representations personally or through a representative, who shall first identify him/herself.
- The Chairman and other members of the committee may ask the applicant or license holder questions and points of clarification.
- The applicant or licence holder, his/her representative (if any) and any officer present (with the exception of the Lawyer and the Clerk to the committee) shall withdraw.
- The members of the committee consider their decision. If any further clarification or information is required from the applicant or licence holder or any officer, all parties will be recalled.
- All parties will be recalled for the announcement by the Chairman of the committee's decision.
- The committee's decision will be confirmed in writing by the Proper Officer.
- At any point in this procedure, the committee may pass a resolution excluding the press and public from the meeting on the basis that, if they were to remain, there may be disclosure of exempt information (information relating to the private or business affairs of a particular person).

This page is intentionally left blank

## GUIDANCE NOTES

### NATURAL JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS

These are the principles used in the determination of just or fair processes and stem from the common law legal system.

According to Roman law, certain basic legal principles were so obvious that they should be applied universally without the need to be enacted into the law.

The rules of natural justice are now regularly applied by courts in both common law and civil law jurisdictions.

Natural justice operates on the principles that man is basically good, that a person of good intent should not be harmed and one should treat others as they would like to be treated.

Natural justice includes the notion of procedural fairness and may incorporate the following guidelines:-

- A person accused of a crime, or at risk of some form of loss, should be given adequate notice about the proceedings (including any charges);
- A person making a decision should declare any personal interest they may have in the proceedings;
- A person who makes a decision should be unbiased and act in good faith. He therefore cannot be one of the parties in the case, or have an interest in the outcome. This is expressed in the Latin maxim, *nemo iudex in causa sua*: “no man is permitted to be judge in his own cause”;
- Proceedings should be conducted so they are fair to all the parties – expressed in the Latin maxim, *audi alteram* : “let the other side be heard”;
- Each party to a proceeding is entitled to ask questions and contradict the evidence of the opposing party;
- A decision-maker should take into account relevant considerations and extenuating circumstances, and ignore irrelevant considerations;
- Justice should be seen to be done. If the community is satisfied that justice has been done they will continue to place their faith in the courts.

Where a person’s legal rights are concerned, the principles of natural justice are bolstered by Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights which is now incorporated into domestic law.

### THE RULE AGAINST BIAS

It is elementary to the rules of natural justice that the deciding body is to be free from bias.

The rule is that the body must be and be seen to be impartial, independent and disinterested.

There are two broad categories of bias:

- (a) Actual Bias: when the decision-maker has an economic interest in the outcome of the case (also known as a material or pecuniary interest) subject to the De Minimum doctrine;

- (b) Reasonable Apprehension: unbiased appearance is an essential part of procedural fairness. The test is whether, having regard to the circumstances, a well informed person (“reasonably informed bystander”) would consider that the interest might have an influence on the exercise of the decision-maker’s duties.



## **GUIDANCE NOTES**

### **HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998**

In addition to the Rules of Natural Justice, you must also have regard to the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

#### **Rights and Freedoms to be considered when determining matters**

##### ARTICLE 6: RIGHT TO A FAIR TRIAL

1. In the determination of his civil rights and obligations or of any criminal charge against him, everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law. Judgement shall be pronounced publicly, but the press and public may be excluded from all or part of the trial in the interest of morals, public order or national security in a democratic society, where the interests of juveniles or the protection of the private life of the parties so require, or to the extent strictly necessary in the opinion of the court in special circumstances where publicity would prejudice the interests of justice.
2. Everyone charged with a criminal offence shall be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law.
3. Everyone charged with a criminal offence has the following minimum rights:
  - (a) to be informed promptly, in a language which he understands and in detail, of the nature and cause of the accusation against him;
  - (b) to have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defence;
  - (c) to defend himself in person or through legal assistance of his own choosing or, if he has not sufficient means, to pay for legal assistance, to be given it free when the interests of justice so require;
  - (d) to examine or have examined witnesses against him and to obtain the attendance and examination of witnesses on his behalf under the same conditions as witnesses against him;
  - (e) to have the free assistance of an interpreter if he cannot understand or speak the language used in court.

##### ARTICLE 8: RIGHT TO RESPECT FOR PRIVATE AND FAMILY LIFE

1. Everyone has the right to respect for his private and family life, his home and his correspondence.
2. There shall be no interference by a public authority with the exercise of this right except such as is in accordance with the law and is necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security, public safety or the economic well being of the country, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

##### ARTICLE 10: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This rights shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This Article shall not prevent States from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises.

2. The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.

#### ARTICLE 14: PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATION

The enjoyment of the rights and freedoms set fourth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.

NB This is not a substantive right, but comes into play if other rights are likely to have been infringed. The prohibition is wide, but not exhaustive

#### ARTICLE 1: OF THE FIRST PROTOCOL PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

Every natural or legal person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his possessions. No one shall be deprived of his possessions except in the public interest and subject to the conditions provided for by law and by the general principles of international law.

The preceding provisions shall not, however, in any way impair the right of a State to enforce such laws as it deems necessary to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest or to secure the payment of taxes or other contributions or penalties.

NOTE Possessions, in this context, includes the right to apply for a licence, the right to hold and retain a licence, the goodwill of a business and liquor licences.



## **GUIDELINES RELATING TO THE RELEVANCE OF CONVICTIONS FOR APPLICANTS FOR THE GRANT AND RENEWAL OF LICENCES TO DRIVE HACKNEY CARRIAGES AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES**

### **GENERAL POLICY**

1. Each case will be decided on its own merits
2. The Council will, as far as is possible, ensure that all persons holding a licence to drive Hackney Carriages or private hire vehicles are fit and proper persons. In doing so, the Council will take into account previous convictions including, where relevant, 'spent' convictions.
3. The Council will always put the protection of the public first when considering the relevance of convictions recorded against an applicant for a licence.
4. A person with a conviction for serious crime need not be permanently barred from obtaining a licence but will be expected to remain free of conviction for an appropriate period, before an application is considered. However, remaining free of conviction for a specified period may not be sufficient to show that a person is fit and proper and additional evidence may be required.
5. There may be occasions where it is appropriate to depart from the guidelines when making a decision on an application. For example, where the offence is a one-off and there are mitigating circumstances or alternately, where there are many or continuous offences which may show a pattern of offending and unfitness.
6. The following examples give a general guide as to the action that might be taken where convictions are recorded against an applicant.

#### **(a) Dishonesty**

Members of the public using Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles expect the driver to be honest and trustworthy. It would be easy for a dishonest driver to take advantage of the public.

For these reasons, a serious view will be taken of any conviction involving dishonesty. In general, if an application is made within the first 3 to 5 years from the date of a conviction or from the date of release from jail where a custodial sentence has been imposed, it is likely that it will be refused.

Where an application is made within the first three years since the conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been

imposed, for any of the following offences, the application will normally be refused:-

- Theft
- Burglary
- Fraud
- Benefit fraud (including offences under ss11A and 112 of the Social Security Administration Act 1992)
- Blackmail
- Handling or receiving stolen goods
- Forgery
- Conspiracy to defraud
- Obtaining money or property by deception
- Other deception
- Or similar offences to those above which may replace any of the above offences

When a period of three years from conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed has passed, consideration will be given to the circumstances of the offence and any evidence to show that an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

**(b) Violence**

As Hackney Carriage and private hire vehicle drivers maintain close contact with the public, a firm line will be taken with applicants who have convictions for violence. Where the commission of an offence involves loss of life, a licence will normally be refused. In other cases, a period of three to ten years free of conviction from the date of conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed will generally be required before an application is likely to be considered favourably. The nature and seriousness of the offence(s) will be taken into consideration.

In particular:-

- (i) An application will normally be refused where the applicant has a conviction for an offence of:-
  - Murder
  - Manslaughter
  - Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving
  - Or similar offence or offences which replace the above offences
  
- (ii) An application will normally be refused for a period of five years from the date of the conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed if the applicant has a conviction for:-
  - Arson
  - Malicious wounding or grievous bodily harm which is racially aggravated
  - Assault occasioning actual bodily harm which is racially aggravated

- Assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm
- Assaulting a police officer in the execution of his duties
- Malicious wounding
- Robbery
- Racially aggravated criminal damage
- Racially aggravated fear or provocation of violence
- Racially aggravated intentional harassment, alarm or distress
- Racially aggravated harassment
- Racially aggravated putting people in fear of violence
- Riot
- Possession of an offensive weapon
- Possession of a firearm
- Violent disorder
- Or any arrestable offence involving violence (an arrestable offence is defined as an offence committed by a person of age 21 years or over and on conviction for the first offence may be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of five years or where the penalty is fixed by law)

(iii) An application will normally be refused for a period of three years from the date of conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, where the applicant has a conviction for:-

- Common assault
- Racially aggravated common assault
- Assault occasioning actual bodily harm
- Affray
- Racially aggravated harassment, alarm or distress
- Resisting arrest
- Obstructing a police officer in the execution of his duty
- Criminal damage
- Any similar offence or offences which replace the above offences

**(c) Drugs**

An application will normally be refused if an applicant has a conviction for an offence that relates to the supply or importation of drugs and the date of the conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, is less than five to ten years before the date of the application. However, after five years from the date of such a conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, the circumstances of the offence and any evidence which shows that a person is now a fit and proper person to hold a licence will be taken into consideration.

An application will normally be refused where the application is made within three to five years from the date of a conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed for an offence relating to the possession of drugs. However, after a period of three years from the date of such a conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, consideration will be given to the circumstances

of the offence and any evidence to show that an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

An application will normally be refused where an applicant has more than one conviction for offences related to the possession of drugs and the last conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, is less than five years before the date of the application.

Where evidence is available that an applicant who has convictions for drug related offences has been addicted to drugs, they will have to produce evidence that shows that they have been free of drug taking for at least five years after successfully completing a drug treatment programme.

**(d) Sexual and Indecency Offences**

As the driver of Hackney Carriages and private hire vehicles often carry passengers who are alone, or may be vulnerable, applicants who have convictions for rape, indecent assault, any sexual offence involving children and any conviction for an offence under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will normally be refused a licence.

Where an applicant has a conviction for a sexual offence such as indecent exposure, they will normally be refused a licence until they can show a substantial period usually between five and ten years free of any such convictions from the date of conviction or the date of release from jail where a custodial sentence has been imposed before an application is made.

After a period of five years from the date of a conviction or the date of release from jail, where a custodial sentence has been imposed, consideration will be given to the circumstances of the offence and any evidence to show that an applicant is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

When considering applications, the Council may take into account any information of a sexual nature which does not amount to a criminal offence that is brought to its attention where that information may indicate that an applicant may not be a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

**(e) Motoring Convictions**

**(i) Disqualification**

Where an applicant had been disqualified from driving by the Courts for a serious traffic offence under Category 'A' of Annex (i), an application will generally be refused unless a period of five years free of conviction has passed since the return of the DVLA licence.

Where an applicant has been disqualified from driving by the Courts for a serious traffic offence under Category 'B' of Annex (i), an application will generally be refused unless a period of five years free of conviction has passed since the return of the DVLA licence unless the offence was an isolated one, in which case, a period of not less than 2 years shall have passed.

Where a disqualification is imposed by a court in a 'totting-up' case, i.e. where an applicant has been disqualified because of several

driving offences, an application will generally be refused unless a period of one year free of conviction has elapsed since the return of the DVLA driver licence.

In 'totting-up' cases where a court does not impose a disqualification because of exceptional circumstances, then because the Council apply different criteria to the courts, an application will generally be refused unless an applicant can show a period of 1 year free of conviction from the date of the last court appearance.

(ii) Serious Traffic Offences

Where an applicant has a conviction for a serious traffic offence in Category 'A' Annex (i) and a period of disqualification has not been imposed by the courts, an application will normally be refused where an application is made in the last five years following the date of the last conviction.

Where an applicant has a conviction for a serious traffic offence in Category 'B' Annex (i) and a period of disqualification has not been imposed by the courts, an application will normally be refused where an application is made in the last five years following the date of the last conviction unless the offence was an isolated one.

Where an applicant has had more than one conviction for a serious traffic offence in either Category 'A' or 'B' of Annex (i) and the courts have not imposed a period of disqualification, an application will normally be refused where an application is made in five years following the date of the last conviction.

(iii) Other Traffic Offences

Normally, isolated convictions for other traffic offences should not prevent someone obtaining a licence. However, the number, type and the frequency of these types of offence will be taken into account. If there are several convictions for these types of offence, an applicant will normally be expected not to have been convicted of an offence in the six months before an application is made.

A list of relevant offences is shown at Annex (ii). However, this is not an exhaustive list and there may be other offences which may be relevant.

(f) **Offences Under the Town Police Clauses Acts and Part II of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and any Hackney Carriage Byelaws (The Acts)**

One of the main purposes of the licensing regime set out in 'The Acts' is to ensure the protection of the public. For this reason, a serious view will be taken of convictions for offences under the legislation, particularly offences of illegal plying for hire, when deciding if a person is a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

In particular, an application will normally be refused where an applicant has more than one conviction for an offence under 'The Acts' in the two years preceding the date of the application.

**(g) Drunkenness**

(i) In a Motor Vehicle

The manner in which drunkenness in a motor vehicle will be dealt with is outlined in Motoring Offences at paragraph 'e' of these guidelines.

(ii) Not in a Motor Vehicle

Where an applicant has an isolated conviction for drunkenness, this need not stop an applicant from getting a licence. In some cases, a warning may be appropriate. However, where an applicant has a number of convictions for drunkenness, it could indicate a medical problem, which would require further investigation including a medical examination and the possible refusal of a licence.

**(h) Spent Convictions**

The Council will only take 'Spent Convictions' into consideration if it is considered they are relevant to the application.

**(i) Formal Cautions and Fixed Penalty Notices**

For the purposes of these guidelines, the Council will treat Formal Cautions issued in accordance with Home Office guidance and fixed penalty notices as though they were a conviction before the courts.



## SERIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENCES

CATEGORY 'A'	
Offence Code	Offence
<b>Careless Driving</b>	
<b>CD40</b>	Causing death through careless driving when unfit through drink
<b>CD50</b>	Causing death through careless driving when unfit through drugs
<b>CD60</b>	Causing death through careless driving with alcohol level above the limit
<b>CD70</b>	Causing death through careless driving then failing to supply a specimen for analysis
<b>Reckless/Dangerous Driving</b>	
<b>DD40</b>	Dangerous driving
<b>DD60</b>	Manslaughter or culpable homicide while driving a vehicle
<b>DD80</b>	Causing death by dangerous driving
<b>Miscellaneous Offences</b>	
<b>MS50</b>	Motor racing on a highway
<b>Theft and Unauthorised Taking</b>	
<b>UT50</b>	Aggravated taking of a vehicle

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Any offence of aiding, abetting or procuring the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **2**.

Any offence of causing or permitting the above the offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **4**.

Inciting any of the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **6**.

<b>CATEGORY 'B'</b>	
<b>Offence Code</b>	<b>Offence</b>
<b>Accident Offences</b>	
<b>AC10</b>	Failing to stop after an accident
<b>AC20</b>	Failing to give particulars or report an accident within 24 hours
<b>BA10</b>	Driving whilst disqualified by order of the court
<b>BA30</b>	Attempting to drive whilst disqualified by order of the court
<b>Careless Driving</b>	
<b>CD10</b>	Driving without due care and attention
<b>CD20</b>	Driving without reasonable consideration for other road users
<b>CD30</b>	Driving without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other road users
<b>Construction and Use Offences</b>	
<b>CU10</b>	Using a vehicle with defective brakes
<b>CU20</b>	Causing or likely to cause danger by use of unsuitable vehicle or using a vehicle with parts or accessories (excluding brakes, steering or tyres) in a dangerous condition
<b>CU30</b>	Using a vehicle with defective tyre(s)
<b>CU40</b>	Using a vehicle with defective steering
<b>CU50</b>	Causing or likely to cause danger by reason of load or passengers
<b>Drink or Drugs</b>	
<b>DR10</b>	Driving or attempting to drive with alcohol level above limit
<b>DR20</b>	Driving or attempting to drive while unfit through drink
<b>DR30</b>	Driving or attempting to drive then failing to supply a specimen for analysis
<b>DR40</b>	In charge of a vehicle while alcohol above limit
<b>DR50</b>	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drink
<b>DR60</b>	Failure to provide specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive when unfit through drugs
<b>DR70</b>	Failing to provide a specimen for breath test
<b>DR80</b>	Driving or attempting to drive when unfit through drugs
<b>DR90</b>	In charge of a vehicle while unfit through drugs
<b>Insurance Offences</b>	
<b>IN10</b>	Using a vehicle uninsured against third party risks
<b>Licence Offences</b>	
<b>LC30</b>	Driving after making a false declaration about fitness when applying for a licence
<b>LC40</b>	Driving a vehicle after having failed to notify a disability
<b>Miscellaneous Offences</b>	
<b>MS70</b>	Driving with uncorrected defective eyesight

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Any offence of aiding, abetting or procuring the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **2**.

Any offence of causing or permitting the above the offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **4**.

Inciting any of the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **6**.

If any of the offences in **Category 'B'** involve a licensed Hackney Carriage or private hire vehicle, they will be treated as though they are a **Category 'A'** offence.

## OTHER TRAFFIC OFFENCES

Offence Code	Offence
<b>LC20</b>	Driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence
<b>LC50</b>	Driving after a licence has been revoked or refused on medical grounds
<b>MS10</b>	Leaving a vehicle in a dangerous position
<b>MS20</b>	Unlawful pillion riding
<b>MS30</b>	Play street offences
<b>MS60</b>	Offences not covered by other codes
<b>MS80</b>	Refusing to submit to an eyesight test
<b>MS90</b>	Failure to give information as to identity of driver etc
<b>MW10</b>	Contravention of Special Road Regulations (excluding speed limits)
<b>PC10</b>	Undefined contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations
<b>PC20</b>	Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with a moving vehicle
<b>PC30</b>	Contravention of Pedestrian Crossing Regulations with a stationery vehicle
<b>SP10</b>	Exceeding goods vehicle speed limits
<b>SP20</b>	Exceeding speed limit for type of vehicle (excluding goods or passenger vehicles)
<b>SP30</b>	Exceeding statutory speed limit on a public road
<b>SP40</b>	Exceeding passenger vehicle speed limit
<b>SP50</b>	Exceeding speed limit on a motorway
<b>SP60</b>	Undefined speed limit offence
<b>TS10</b>	Failing to comply with traffic light signals
<b>TS20</b>	Failing to comply with double white lines
<b>TS30</b>	Failing to comply with 'stop' sign
<b>TS40</b>	Failing to comply with direction of a constable/warden
<b>TS50</b>	Failing to comply with traffic sign (excluding stop signs, traffic lights or double white lines)
<b>TS60</b>	Failing to comply with a school crossing patrol sign
<b>TS70</b>	Undefined failure to comply with a traffic direction sign

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Any offence of aiding, abetting or procuring the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **2**.

Any offence of causing or permitting the above the offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **4**.

Inciting any of the above offences, the offence code will have the **0** replaced by a **6**.

If any of the offences in **Category 'B'** involve a licensed Hackney Carriage or private hire vehicle, they will be treated as though they are a **Category 'B'** offence under Annex (ii).

This page is intentionally left blank

## PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13th March, 2018

Time of Commencement: 7.00 pm

**Present:-** Mayor's Consort Councillor Gary White –  
in the Chair

**Councillors** Dymond, L Hailstones, P Hailstones,  
Robinson, Spence, J Tagg and Walklate

**Officers** Nesta Barker - Head of Environmental  
Health Services, Matthew Burton -  
Licensing Administration Team Manager,  
Geoff Durham - Member Training and  
Development Officer, Emma Reardon  
and Paul Washington - Principal Solicitor

**Apologies** Councillor(s) S Hambleton, Matthews  
and Olszewski

### 1. **DISCLOSURE OF EXEMPT INFORMATION**

**Resolved:-** That the public be excluded from the meeting during  
consideration of the following matters because it is likely that  
there will be disclosure of exempt information as defined in  
paragraphs 1,2 and 7 contained within Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act, 1972

### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest stated.

### 3. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillors' Hambleton, Olszewski and Waring.

### 4. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meetings held on 22 January and 30  
January, 2018 be agreed as correct records.

### 5. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding an application for the renewal of a  
Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence by SRH.

The application was deferred from the previous meeting. SRH was not in attendance  
and the application was heard in his absence.

**Resolved:** That the decision taken by the Chair of the Public Protection  
Committee, to refuse the Hackney Carriage licence application be  
noted.

### 6. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding a new application for a Private Hire Vehicle Licence by Mr GC together with a request concerning the vehicle which would be a departure from the Council's policy.

Mr GC was given the opportunity to address the Committee.

**Resolved:** That, in accordance with the Council's policy and guidelines and subject to a copy of the licence and a notice stating that an exemption had been granted being displayed inside the vehicle, the application and request be approved.

**7. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding a request from UBL.

A representative of UBL was given the opportunity to address the Committee.

**Resolved:** That, in accordance with the Council's policy and conditions, the request be approved.

**8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding a new driver application for Mr TMH.

Mr TMH was given the opportunity to address the Committee.

**Resolved:** That, in view of the nature and seriousness of the offence, the committee saw no reason to depart from its policy and having concluded that Mr TMH was not a fit and proper person to hold a dual drivers licence, refused the application.

**9. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

**Resolved:** That the application submitted by Mr FH be deferred until the next meeting.

**10. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding an application for a new Dual Driver's Licence by Mr MDHR.

Mr MDHR was accompanied by his cousin who addressed the Committee on his behalf.

**Resolved:** That, in view of the nature and seriousness of the offence, the committee saw no reason to depart from its policy and having concluded that Mr MDHR was not a fit and proper person to hold a dual drivers licence, refused the application.

**11. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding an application for renewal of a Dual Driver's Licence by Mr MB.



Mr MB was given the opportunity to address the Committee.

**Resolved:** That the application submitted by Mr MB be approved but that a written warning be issued in respect of his future conduct.

12. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

**Resolved:** That the application submitted by Mr SKM be deferred until the next meeting.

13. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a new driver application for a Dual Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence by Mr RT.

Mr RT was given the opportunity to address the Committee.

**Resolved:** That the application submitted by Mr RT be approved for a limited period of twelve months after which time, and subject to no further offences, Mr RT could apply for a full licence.

14. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT - 1976**

The Committee considered a report regarding an application for renewal of a Dual Driver's Licence by Mr MN.

Mr MN was not in attendance and the Committee agreed to consider the application in his absence.

**Resolved:** That, in view of the nature and seriousness of the offence, and its non-disclosure in accordance with his licence conditions, the committee saw no reason to depart from its policy and refused the application.

15. **PAYING STRAY DOG FINES**

This item had been deferred from a previous meeting and were advised that a decision had been made to withdraw the report.

**Resolved:** That the information be noted.

16. **NATIONAL DATABASE OF TAXI LICENCE REFUSALS AND REVOCATIONS**

The Committee considered a report regarding the development of a national database of hackney or private hire drivers or dual drivers licence refusals, suspensions and revocations.

**Resolved:** (i) That the development of a national database of taxi driver licence refusals suspensions and revocations be noted.

(ii) That participation in the national database be approved.

17. **MR PAUL WASHINGTON**

Members were informed that this would be the last meeting of this Committee that Paul Washington would attend.

Members wished Paul well for his retirement and for the future.

18. **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no Urgent Business.

**MAYOR'S CONSORT COUNCILLOR GARY WHITE**  
**Chair**

Meeting concluded at 8.35 pm

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



## APPEAL OUTCOME MR ABDUL HAKIM BAIG

**Submitted by:** Head of Environmental Health Services

**Portfolio:** Finance & Resources

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To advise committee of the outcome of Mr Abdul Hakim Baig's appeal to the Magistrates Court of the Committee's Chair and Vice-Chair's decision to revoke his Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence.

### **Recommendations**

That the report be received.

## 1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017, the Chair and Vice-Chair considered Mr Baig's hackney carriage drivers licence (reference 011984), following a disclosure from the Police.
- 1.2 The disclosure stated that in October 2017 the Police had received a complaint from a member of the public that Mr Baig had been witnessed masturbating in Bathpool Park. Also that between 2015 and 2017 there had been three other complaints made against Mr Baig of inappropriate behaviour of a sexual nature.
- 1.3 The Chair and Vice-Chair resolved that due to the serious nature of the complaints received and considering the Council's responsibility to ensure the safety of the public that on the balance of probabilities Mr Baig was no longer a fit and proper person to hold a hackney carriage drivers licence, and in the interests of Public Safety that the licence should be revoked with immediate effect.
- 1.4 The decision was noted by the Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.
- 1.5 In Mr Baig's witness statement he stated that he only had only ever had two convictions. One for an SP30 speeding offence in March 2015 and one for IN10 driving without insurance in December 2017. The Council had not been notified of either of these offences.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 All drivers have the right to appeal a decision to the Magistrates court. Mr Baig lodged an appeal against the decision and the matter was heard at Newcastle-under-Lyme Magistrates court on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2018. Mr Baig attended and was represented by a solicitor.
- 2.2 The Magistrates' heard submissions from the Council and Mr Baig's solicitor, evidence from Matthew Burton and Mr Baig, and read the accompanying bundle. The Magistrates decided to dismiss Mr. Baig's appeal. They said that the Council was correct in coming to its decision to revoke Mr Baig's licence. In reaching their decision the Magistrates' had regard to Mr Baig's driving history, the 5 allegations made against him including 4 of a sexual nature, the failure to report his speeding offence and whilst they took into account they gave less weight to his more recent driving with no insurance offence as this had occurred after his licence had been revoked.

However, considering the number and nature of the police complaints and the Council's policy ensuring he was a fit and proper person they would not be happy for a relative to travel in his vehicle.

- 2.3 The magistrates also ordered that Mr Baig should pay £300.00 of the £657.50 requested by the Council in relation to the costs incurred defending the appeal.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That members receive the report.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- 4.1 In line with the Council's objectives –

- Promoting a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- Promoting a Borough of Opportunity

5. **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 No costs were awarded against that Council in respect of this case.

6. **Earlier Committee Resolutions**

- 6.1 The Chair and Vice-Chair of Public Protection committee considered the matter on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2017 and members of the Committee were notified of the decision at the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

## APPEAL OUTCOME MR MOHAMMED SAJJAD MIAH

**Submitted by:** Head of Environmental Health Services

**Portfolio:** Finance & Resources

**Ward(s) affected:** All

### **Purpose of the Report**

To advise committee of the outcome of Mr Mohammed Sajjad Miah's appeal to the Crown Court of the Magistrates' Court's decision to dismiss his appeal following Public Protection Committees decision to revoke his Private Hire Drivers Licence.

### **Recommendations**

That the report be received.

## 1. **Background**

- 1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017, Public Protection committee considered Mr Miah's private hire drivers licence (reference 012273), following notification of convictions that falls within the Council's guidelines.
- 1.2 The notification revealed a conviction for speeding, using a defective tyre and not wearing a seatbelt.
- 1.3 Committee resolved that due to the nature of the offences the Committee saw no reason to depart from its policy and agreed that Mr Miah's licence should be revoked with immediate effect.
- 1.4 Mr Miah appealed the Committee's decision to the Magistrates' Court which was heard on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The Magistrates' dismissed his appeal and awarded costs against Mr Miah of £880.00.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 All drivers have the right to appeal a Magistrates' Court decision, to the Crown Court, Mr Miah lodged an appeal against the decision and the matter was heard at Stoke-on-Trent Crown Court on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018. Mr. Miah attended and was represented by his solicitor.
- 2.2 The Judge and Magistrates' heard submissions from the Council, Mr Miah's solicitor and read the accompanying bundle. The Court decided to allow Mr. Miah's appeal.
- 2.3 The Court found the decisions taken by the Committee and Magistrates' Court were not wrong but in light of the fact that Mr Miah was not working at the time of the offences, and was not carrying members of the public, even though he was driving a licensed vehicle, then they were not to be considered as serious as if he had have been.
- 2.4 As Mr Miah's appeal was allowed the costs order awarded to the Council by the Magistrates' Court was dismissed.

## 3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That members receive the report.

4. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

4.1 In line with the Council's objectives –

- Promoting a cleaner, safer and sustainable Borough
- Promoting a Borough of Opportunity

5. **Financial and Resource Implications**

5.1 No costs were awarded against that Council in respect of this case.

6. **Earlier Committee Resolutions**

6.1 Public Protection committee considered the application at the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

6.2 Public Protection Committee were notified of the decision taken by Magistrates' Court at the meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.