

## **Licensing (Taxis, Street Trading & Miscellaneous) Sub Committee Hackney Carriage (taxi) and Private Hire Drivers Hearing Procedure**

1. The Chair will introduce Members of the Sub-Committee, introduce the Officers present, explain the procedure to be followed and ensure those present understand that procedure.
2. The Licensing Officer will outline the nature of the matter to be considered by the Sub-Committee.
3. The Applicant is asked to leave the room while the Sub-Committee consider the CRB check, references and statement.
4. The Applicant (or his/her representative) addresses the Sub-Committee.
5. The Applicant may be asked questions about the matter by the Sub-Committee.
6. The Applicant (or his/her representative) may call witnesses in support of their case and each witness may also be asked questions.
7. The Chair will ask the Licensing Officers present whether they wish to make any comments. If the Officers makes comment they may be asked questions.
8. The Applicant will be invited to make a closing statement.
9. The Sub-Committee withdraw to private session to consider their decision. The Sub-Committee may reconvene to resolve any points of uncertainty on matters already raised. The Sub-Committee will be accompanied for advice only by the Legal Adviser and Democratic Services Officer.
10. The Sub-Committee will return to the meeting room and the Chair will announce the Sub-Committee's decision with reasons and advise that the decision will be released in writing within the statutory time limits.
11. Where the Sub-Committee attach conditions to the licence the Sub-Committee will detail those conditions.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

- Where the Sub-Committee considers it necessary the procedure may be varied.
- In circumstances where any party fails to attend the Sub-Committee will consider whether to proceed in that party's absence or defer to the next meeting on notice to all parties that the matter may proceed in a parties absence on the next occasion. In deciding whether to proceed all notices and representations will be considered.
- Only in **exceptional circumstances** will the Sub-Committee take into account any additional late documentary or other information produced by an existing

party in support of their application/representation. This will be at the discretion of the Chair and with the agreement of all the other parties. No new representations will be allowed at the hearing.

- The Sub-Committee will disregard any information or representation given by a party they consider not to be relevant to an Application.
- The hearing will take the form of a discussion and the Sub-Committee will allow all parties to ask questions of other parties present. However, formal cross examination will be discouraged although supplementary questions may be asked for clarification purposes.
- If any person has special needs regarding access, hearing or vision, this should be brought to the Licensing Authority's attention prior to the hearing in order that reasonable adjustments can be made.
- Parties will be allowed an equal maximum period of time to make representations. Although time limits will be at the discretion of the Chair, in the interests of costs and efficiency, this will not normally exceed **twenty minutes** and will include both case presentation and summing up. The time limit will not include the time taken for questions.

**N.B.**

1. Where there is more than one party making relevant representations the time allocated will be split between those parties and it is therefore recommended parties arrive early to discuss the application with other interested parties.
  2. Where several parties make the same or similar representations one representative should be appointed to make the representations.
  3. Where an objection is made by an association or local residents group, a duly authorised person – as notified to the Licensing authority – may speak on behalf of that association or local residents group.
- The Chair may require any person attending the hearing who is behaving in a disruptive manner to leave the hearing and refuse to allow that person to return, or only allow them to return subject to certain conditions. Any person so excluded will however be entitled to submit to the Sub-Committee any information which they would have been entitled to give orally had they not been required to leave.
  - Bath & North East Somerset Council is committed to taking decisions in an honest, accountable and transparent fashion, but on occasion may find it necessary to exclude members of the press and public based upon the legal framework given in the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 (a). On these occasions decisions based on the above framework will be given.