

Licensing Sub-Committee

Date: Thursday, 7th September, 2023

Time: 10.00am

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

Councillors: Steve Hedges, Lucy Hodge and Toby Simon

Chief Executive and other appropriate officers
Press and Public

A briefing session for Members will be held at 9.30am.



Mark Durnford

Democratic Services

Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

Telephone: 01225 394458

Web-site - <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk>

E-mail: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk

NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 now allows filming and recording by anyone attending a meeting. This is not within the Council's control. Some of our meetings are webcast. At the start of the meeting, the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is to be filmed. If you would prefer not to be filmed for the webcast, please make yourself known to the camera operators. We request that those filming/recording meetings avoid filming public seating areas, children, vulnerable people etc; however, the Council cannot guarantee this will happen.

The Council will broadcast the images and sounds live via the internet www.bathnes.gov.uk/webcast. The Council may also use the images/sound recordings on its social media site or share with other organisations, such as broadcasters.

4. **Public Speaking at Meetings**

The Council has a scheme to encourage the public to make their views known at meetings. They may make a statement relevant to what the meeting has power to do. They may also present a petition or a deputation on behalf of a group.

Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

Further details of the scheme can be found at:

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=12942>

5. **Emergency Evacuation Procedure**

When the continuous alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building by one of the designated exits and proceed to the named assembly point. The designated exits are signposted. Arrangements are in place for the safe evacuation of disabled people.

6. **Supplementary information for meetings**

Additional information and Protocols and procedures relating to meetings

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13505>

Licensing Sub-Committee - Thursday, 7th September, 2023

at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5 on the previous page.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting.

(a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.

(b) The nature of their interest.

(c) Whether their interest is a **disclosable pecuniary interest** or an **other interest** (as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests).

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

4. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

5. LICENSING PROCEDURE (Pages 5 - 8)

The Chair will, if required, explain the licensing procedure.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Sub-Committee is asked to consider passing the following resolution:

“the Sub-Committee having been satisfied that the public interest would be better served by not disclosing relevant information, in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, **RESOLVES** that the public shall be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business and the reporting of the meeting be prevented under Section 100A(5A), because of the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended.

7. CONSIDERATION OF FIT AND PROPER STATUS - 21/02421/TAXI (Pages 9 - 68)

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Mark Durnford who can be contacted on 01225 394458.

Licensing Sub Committee Hackney Carriage (taxi) and Private Hire Driver Application Procedure

1. The Chair will introduce Members of the Committee, introduce the Officers present, explain the procedure to be followed and ensure those present have received and understood that procedure.
2. The Licensing Officer will outline the nature of the matter to be considered by the Committee.
3. The Applicant, representative and/or witness is asked to leave the room while the Committee consider the Disclosure and Barring Service report, references and statement.
4. The Applicant, representative and/or witness returns and presents the case to the Committee.
5. The Applicant may be questioned about the matter by the Committee.
6. The Applicant may call witnesses in support of their application and each witness may be asked questions.
7. The Chair will ask the Licensing Officers present whether they wish to comment. If an Officer makes comment they may be asked questions.
8. The Applicant will be invited to make a closing statement.
9. The Chair will invite the Committee to move into private session to enable the Members to deliberate in private. The Committee will reconvene publicly if clarification of evidence is required and/or legal advice is required. The Committee may retire to a private room, or alternatively require vacation of the meeting room by all other persons.
10. Whilst in deliberation the Committee will be accompanied by Legal and Democratic Services Officers for the purpose of assisting them in drafting their reasoning for the decision.
11. The Committee will reconvene the meeting and the Chair will announce the Committee's decision with reasons and advise that the decision will be released in writing within the statutory time limits.

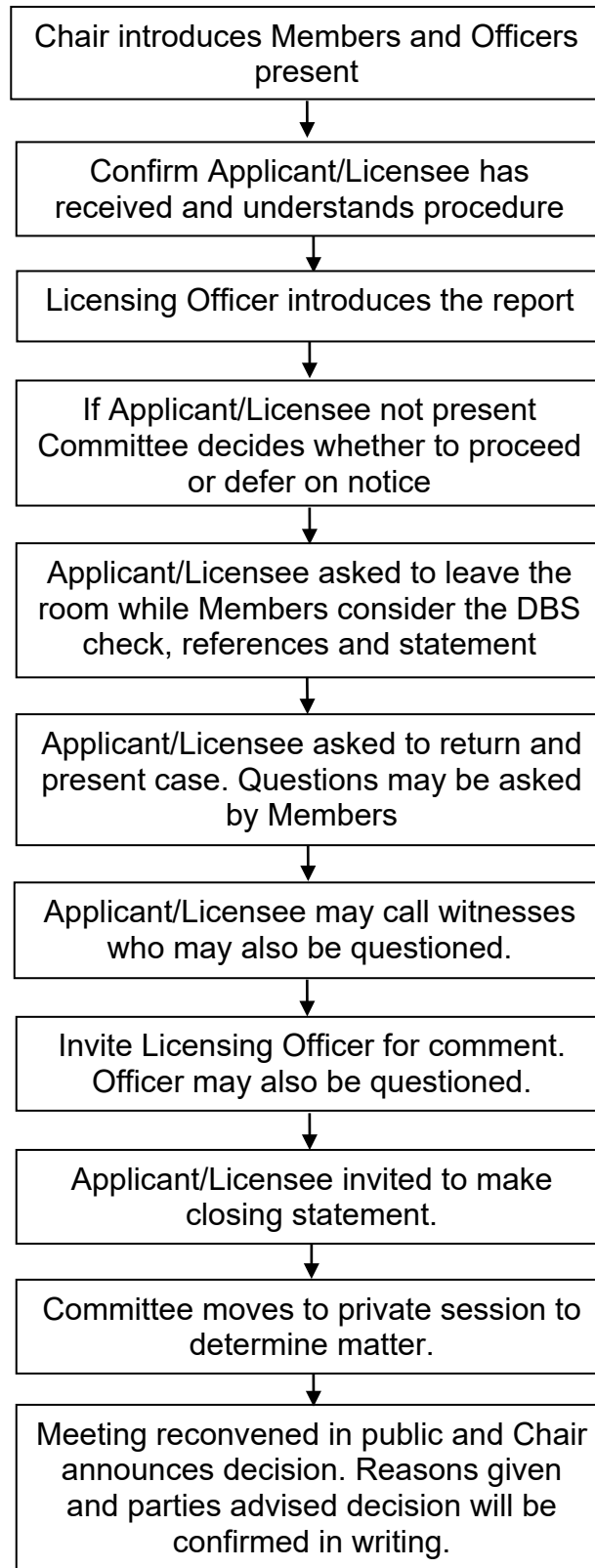
PLEASE NOTE:

- Where the Committee considers it necessary the procedure may be varied.
- In circumstances where a party fails to attend the Committee will consider whether to proceed in absence or defer to the next meeting. Should a matter be deferred the deferral notice will state that the matter may proceed in a party's absence on the next occasion. In deciding whether to proceed all notices, communications and representations will be considered.
- Only in **exceptional circumstances** will the Committee take account of additional late documentary or other information and will be at the discretion of the Chair and on notice to all the other parties. No new representations will be allowed at the hearing.
- The Committee will disregard all information or representations considered irrelevant.
- The hearing will take the form of a discussion. The Committee will allow parties to the proceedings to ask questions. Formal cross examination will be discouraged and, should they be necessary, supplementary questions allowed for clarification purposes only.
- Parties will have an equal amount of time to present their cases. Whilst time limits are at the Chair's discretion, in the interests of cost and efficiency, presentations will not normally exceed **twenty minutes** to include summarising the case. Time limits 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.
 2. Where several parties are making the same or similar representations it is suggested that one representative is appointed to avoid duplication and to make the most efficient use of the allocated time.
 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 request that persons behaving in a disruptive manner should leave the hearing and their return refused, or allowed subject to conditions. An excluded person is however, entitled to submit the information they would have been entitled to present had they not been excluded.
 - Bath & North East Somerset Council is committed to taking decisions in an honest, accountable and transparent fashion. On occasion however, it may be necessary to exclude members of the press and public pursuant to the Local Government Act 1972 Schedule 12 (a). In those circumstances reasons for such decisions will be given.
 - If a person has special needs regarding access, hearing or vision, this should be brought to the Licensing Authority's attention prior to the hearing so that reasonable adjustments may be made.

**LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE
HACKNEY CARRIAGE (TAXI) AND
PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES DRIVERS' LICENCE PROCEDURE**



This page is intentionally left blank

Access to Information Arrangements

Exclusion of access by the public to Council meetings

Information Compliance Ref: LGA-1459926
Meeting / Decision: Licensing Sub-Committee
Date: Thursday 7 th September 2023
Author: Wayne Campbell
<p>Exempt Report Title: Consideration of Fit and Proper status</p> <p>Exempt Appendix Title(s): Exempt Annex A- Current Combined Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Drivers Licence. Exempt Annex B- Email from Licensee. Exempt Annex C – Email from Licensee. Exempt Annex D – Licensee’s Version of Events. Exempt Annex E – Medical Correspondence. Exempt Annex F – Correspondence from Previous Incident. Exempt Annex G - Policy on Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Licensing Standards for Drivers, Vehicles and Operators.</p>

The Report contains exempt information, according to the categories set out in the Local Government Act 1972 (amended Schedule 12A). The relevant exemption is set out below.

Stating the exemption:

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

The public interest test has been applied, and it is concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure at this time. It is therefore recommended that the report and appendices be withheld from publication on the Council website. The paragraphs below set out the relevant public interest issues in this case.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST

If the Sub-Committee wishes to consider a matter with press and public excluded, it must be satisfied on two matters.

Firstly, it must be satisfied that the information likely to be disclosed falls within one of the accepted categories of exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972. The officer responsible for this item believes that this information falls within the following exemptions and this has been confirmed by the Council's Information Compliance Manager.

The following exemptions are engaged in respect to this report:

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)

Exemptions 1 and 2 above must be considered in conjunction with the Principles of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). It is considered that disclosure of the information in this report would breach the first principle of the DPA, which requires personal data to be fairly and lawfully processed.

Secondly, it is necessary to weigh up the arguments for and against disclosure on public interest grounds. It is considered that there is a public interest in information about individuals applying for taxi licences in the area, and in particular, information as to the backgrounds of those individuals.

Other factors in favour of disclosure include:

- furthering public understanding of the issues involved;
- furthering public participation in the public debate of issues, in that disclosure would allow a more informed debate;
- promoting accountability and transparency by the Council for the decisions it takes;
- allowing individuals and companies to understand decisions made by the Council affecting their lives and assist individuals to challenge those decisions.

However there is a real risk that the first Principle of the DPA will be breached by this disclosure, and that the individual/s concerned could bring a successful action against the Council if the disclosure occurred. Therefore it is recommended that exemptions 1 and 2 in Schedule 12A stand. The Council considers that the public interest is in favour of not holding this matter in open session at this time and that any reporting on the meeting is prevented in accordance with Section 100A(5A)

Due to the factors outlined above, further consideration has not been given to the application of exemption 3 of Schedule 12A.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank