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Blackpool Council

13 January 2017

To: Councillors Collett, Hobson, Humphreys, Hutton, Maycock, Robertson BEM and Singleton

The above members are requested to attend the:

PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 January 2017 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room A, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

ADMISSION OF THE PUBLIC TO COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Head of Democratic Governance has marked with an asterisk (*) those items where the Committee may need to consider whether the public should be excluded from the meeting as the items are likely to disclose exempt information.

The nature of the exempt information is shown in brackets after the item.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are asked to declare any interests in the items under consideration and in doing so state:

(1) the type of interest concerned; and

(2) the nature of the interest concerned

If any member requires advice on declarations of interests, they are advised to contact the Head of Democratic Governance in advance of the meeting.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6 DECEMBER 2016 (Pages 1 - 2)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 6 December 2016 as a true and correct record.

*** 3 HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE** (Pages 3 - 28)

(This item contains personal information regarding applicants and licence holders which

is exempt from publication by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972)

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note the date of the next meeting as 21 February 2017.

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Chris Williams, Democratic Governance Adviser, Tel: (01253) 477153, e-mail: chris.williams@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER 2016

Present:

Councillor Hutton (in the Chair)

Councillors

Collett

Humphreys

Robertson BEM

Singleton

In Attendance:

Mrs Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing Service

Mr Chris Williams, Democratic Services Adviser

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interests on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2016

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2016 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

3 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

That under Section 100 (A) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the whole item, including the decision referred to at Agenda item 4 on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

4 PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Sub-Committee was informed of an existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicle driver who had given sufficient cause for concern as to be referred to the Sub-Committee for consideration.

Members discussed the referral as follows:

PNC – Existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver

PNC was in attendance and made representations to the Sub-Committee.

Mr Ryan Ratcliffe, Licensing Officer, who was in attendance, presented the case on behalf of the Authority.

The case had been deferred from the previous meeting of 8 November 2016, to allow the driver an additional opportunity to attend.

**MINUTES OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY, 6 DECEMBER
2016**

The Sub-Committee was advised that the driver had been involved in an instance of theft and of harassment that had brought his suitability to operate as a licensed driver into question. Mrs Davies reminded Members of the seriousness of theft and dishonesty offences as outlined in the Hackney Carriage Licence Policy.

PNC explained that a series of difficult personal circumstances had led to him to commit the alleged offences against his former partner. He explained that he had admitted to both offences informing both the Police and the Licensing Service immediately after the events. He added that, in his opinion, his personal circumstances at the time had caused him to act in a way that was out of character.

Members acknowledged that the offences were of a serious nature. However, given the driver's personal circumstances and the fact he had accepted responsibility for the offences, combined with his previously unblemished record as a licensed driver; the Sub-Committee accepted that these were exceptional mitigating circumstances in this particular case.

Resolved:

To take no further action against the driver in relation to the incident.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 24 January 2017.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 6.13 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Chris Williams Democratic Governance Adviser
Tel: (01253) 477153
E-mail: chris.williams@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	PUBLIC PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davies, Head of Licensing Service
Date of Meeting	24 January 2017

PRIVATE HIRE AND HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVERS LICENCES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider applicants who have been convicted of offences or who have otherwise given reasons for concern.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 The Sub-Committee will be requested to determine the applications as appropriate.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 Licensed drivers can be responsible for transporting vulnerable passengers. It is important for the protection of the public that only fit and proper persons are licensed.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None, as the Sub-Committee is required to determine the applications.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is "The Economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Sub-Committee is asked to determine whether or not the applicants are fit and proper persons to hold a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle driver's licence,

in respect of the following cases:

J.B (New Private Hire Vehicle Driver Applicant)

J.R.P (New Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Driver Applicant)

A.S.W (New Hackney Carriage Applicant)

5.2 Details of offences or matters causing concern and any supporting documents are attached at Appendix 3(a).

5.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? Yes

5.4 List of Appendices:

Appendix 3(a) Details of cases (not for publication)

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 The Sub-Committee must be satisfied that the applicants are fit and proper persons to be licensed.

6.2 There is the right of appeal to the Magistrates' Court.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 None

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 None

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 None

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 None

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 None

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 None

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None

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

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