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ENVIRONMENT AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

15 JULY 2021

Present: Councillors Bishop (Chair), Cox (Vice-Chair), Hay, Marlow-Eastwood and Roberts.

157. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

158. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

159. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2021 be approved as a true record.

160. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEMS

None received.

161. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

Councillor Roberts proposed a motion to exclude the public, seconded by Councillor Marlow-Eastwood.

RESOLVED – That the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the items of business listed below because it is likely that, if members of the public were present, there would be disclosure to them of ‘exempt’ information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

162. NEW APPLICANT FOR A HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENSE

The Licensing Lead Officer submitted a report to consider if the applicant is a “fit and proper” person to hold a Hastings Borough Council Hackney Carriage/ Private Hire dual driver’s licence as the applicant cannot produce all required documents due to mitigating circumstances.

The application was therefore referred to the Committee to make a determination.

The Licensing Lead Officer gave an overview of his report and answered questions from Committee members.

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The driver made a submission to the Committee and answered questions from Councillors and the Licensing Lead Officer.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

The Environment and Safety Committee for and on behalf of Hastings Borough Council has considered the report of the licensing officer and the submissions made by the driver and have decided the driver is a "Fit and Proper person" to hold a Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence and instruct the Environmental Health and Licensing Manager to issue a licence when all the conditions are met.

Reasons:

1. While the Committee note the Council's Policy, the Committee are minded to depart from the Policy in this case having considered the case on its merits and noting the driver is close to having the sufficient address history needed under the Policy.
2. The Committee believe the driver has a good knowledge of the town as well as having a clean driving licence. The Committee also note the driver has a calm, collected and assured manner. The Committee are pleased the driver has completed the Blue Lamp Trust driving test and note he also demonstrates an excellent level of English.
3. The Committee confirm they would be happy with their family members being in a taxi with the driver.

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.34pm)