

Bristol City Council
Minutes of the Public Safety and Protection Sub-Committee A



20 April 2021 at 11.00 am

Members Present:-

Councillors: Ruth Pickersgill (Chair), Steve Jones and Estella Tincknell

Officers in Attendance:-

Ashley Clark (Legal Advisor), Abigail Holman (Licensing Officer), Carl Knights (Licensing Policy Advisor) and Oliver Harrison (Democratic Services Officer)

1. Welcome and Safety Information

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllr Lucy Whittle.

1. Declarations of Interest

None received.

1. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting on 16 February 2021 are agreed as a correct record.

1. Public Forum

None received.

1. Suspension of Committee Procedure Rules CMR10 and CMR11 Relating to the Moving of Motions and Rules of Debate



RESOLVED – that having regard to the quasi-judicial nature of the business on the Agenda, those Committee Procedure Rules relating to the moving of motions and the rules of debate (CMR10 and 11) be suspended for the duration of the meeting.

1. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED – that under Section 11A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, as amended.

1. KS - APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE LICENCE SEEKING DEPARTURE FROM BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL POLICY

The Licensing Officer introduced the report and drew attention to the following:

- This is an application for a Private Hire Vehicle License for a vehicle which is beyond 10 years of age. The applicant is asking for a 6 month extension for the vehicle.
- The policy is to only licence vehicles that are under 10 years old. This vehicle is 10 years 7 months old and was licenced for one year in error. Should not have gone past 1 Sep 2020.
- February 2021 was the last time the vehicle undertook a condition check. If the committee was minded to approve, we would need new insurance documentation and another vehicle check. Officers recommend refusal.

The applicant gave the following evidence:

- KS said that the report was correct, and the vehicle is over 10 years old, he applied for a licence as he is not currently working and would struggle to source a replacement vehicle.
- KS said he was advised by officers to undertake an MOT and then apply for the licence afterwards. He is insured for the vehicle.

After questioning from the committee, the following information was confirmed:

- KS understood that his vehicle was out of time in September 2020, but he has not been using the vehicle for a year due to Covid restrictions. He argued that it did not have the expected wear and tear.
- Licensing officers confirmed that they would not insist on an MOT before application, but it could be recommended as it gives officers and the committee an accurate assessment of the state of the vehicle.
- The vehicle passed the MOT in February on first inspection with a small dent on the bodywork noted but no other issues.
- KS only worked a small amount over the past year when the lockdown was temporarily lifted. He did not continue as there were not enough pickups to justify running costs. KS has been doing food and medicine deliveries to help others during lockdown.

Decision:



Members considered that KS's vehicle had already been licensed for 7 months beyond its 10th birthday. They had not been given any evidence to persuade them to depart from their policy and accordingly refused the application under Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 60(1)(c) "any other reasonable cause."

Meeting ended at 12.00 pm

CHAIR _____

