

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LICENSING (MISCELLANEOUS) SUB-COMMITTEE

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976
TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847**

**APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE
VEHICLE DRIVERS LICENCE**

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Sub-Committee of an application for the Grant a Private Hire Vehicle Drivers licence.
- 1.2 To request that the Sub-Committee determines whether Mr Craig Anthony Downing is a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 This Licensing (Miscellaneous) Sub-Committee is authorised to determine applications for the grant, transfer, renewal or revocation of Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Licences relating to drivers, operators and vehicles.
- 2.2 Drivers of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles must be in possession of a valid current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence and ID Badge. It is a requirement that on initial application, prior to the grant of a licence, and upon application to renew a licence every 3 years, that a check be made with the Criminal Records Bureau, for the existence and content of any criminal record held in the name of the applicant.
- 2.3 Information may also be received from other authorities in regard to current Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Vehicle Drivers who have been found guilty of an offence by the courts.
- 2.4 Mr Craig Anthony Downing applied for a Private Hire Drivers Licence 11 April 2011, as with a grant application a Criminal Records Bureau check was carried out.

- 2.5 The Licensing Division was made aware on 6 May 2011 of a trace on Mr Downing's CRB.
- 2.6 The Licensing Division adopted a Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriage/Private Hire vehicles in January 2011 and members are asked to have regard to this Policy when determining such licences.
- 2.7 The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and Amendments Order 2002, exempts applicants for HC/PHV Driving Licences from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, and therefore all relevant convictions can be considered.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The options available to the Licensing (Miscellaneous) Sub-Committee under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 when considering such information are as follows:
 - To grant the licence
 - To grant the licence subject to additional conditions
 - To refuse the application
- 3.2 Should the Licensing (Miscellaneous) Sub-Committee refuse the application or impose additional terms, conditions or restrictions then the applicant may appeal to a Magistrates Court within 21 days from the date on which he was notified of the decision. Should the Magistrates uphold the decision of the council, the applicant has further recourse to the Crown Court.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 A criminal record does not debar an applicant from gaining or renewing a licence unless the authority considers the conviction(s) render the person unsuitable. In the first instance criminal records are checked against guidelines in respect of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and guidance produced in line with the Department of Transport Circular 2/92 and Home Office Circular 13/92. A Copy of the guidance is attached to the 'Licensing Policy – Hackney Carriage/Private Hire', for Members' information.
- 4.2 The legislation also allows the Licensing Authority to attach Conditions to a Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence and in the event that the licensed driver has breached any of the Conditions during the period of their licence may result in them being put before an Assessment Board of Officers of the Licensing Division to consider it. In the event that the Assessment Board is not satisfied that the applicant is a "fit and proper" person, a recommendation is made to this Sub-Committee to determine the licence or the renewal application.
- 4.3 Reports will be updated at the meeting if necessary to take account of any additional relevant information received after publication.

4.4 Members should not allow themselves to pre-determine or to be prejudiced in favour of or opposed to the application until they have had an opportunity to consider all the pertinent facts.

4.5 Members should be aware that as they are acting in a quasi-judicial role as regards this licensing matter, they should remain in the room so that they hear all the evidence on which the decision will be based.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 There are no resource implications

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

6.2 Town Police Clauses Act 1847

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 Not applicable.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the application be determined in accordance with the options outlined at paragraph 3 above, considering the Council's Licensing Policy for Hackney Carriage /Private Hire.

SERVICE DIRECTOR NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

The Angel
BRIGG
North Lincolnshire

Author: Colin Daniel

Date: 4 July 2011

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: -

Application file, except information protected by the Data Protection Act.