

# LICENSING PANEL

Wednesday, 29 November 2017

Present:

Councillors    A Hodson  
                      C Meaden  
                      P Stuart

Apologies:

Councillors    B Davies  
                      R Abbey  
                      D Burgess-Joyce  
                      D Mitchell

73     **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR**

In the absence of the Chair, it was –

**Resolved – That Councillor A Hodson be appointed Chair for this meeting.**

74     **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members of the Panel were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests in connection with any application on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

No such declarations were made.

75     **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion.**

76     **PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE OPERATOR (ML)**

The Managing Director for Delivery submitted a report for Members to consider whether Mr ML remained a fit and proper person to continue to hold his Private Hire Operator Licence.

The Licensing Operations Manager attended the meeting.

Mr ML attended the meeting and made representations in respect of the report. He also referred to a letter he had received from Wirral Council.

A short adjournment took place.

The meeting reconvened, Members were provided with a copy of the letter that had been referred to and the solicitor who had written the letter attended the meeting to clarify the context of the letter.

Members considered carefully the representations and the explanations given by Mr ML, in respect of why he had knowingly allowed unlicensed drivers to drive licensed private hire vehicles that are subject to school contract work. Members did not consider that Mr ML was a fit and proper person to continue to hold a Private Hire Operator Licence.

In coming to their determination the Panel applied the principle of proportionality enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998. In doing so, Members felt that the protection and safety of the public was of paramount concern.

**Resolved - That Mr ML's Private Hire Operator Licence be revoked.**