



- 3.3 The overriding consideration is the safety of the public. The authority has a duty to ensure so far as possible that those licensed to drive hackney carriage and private hire vehicles are suitable persons to do so, that they are safe drivers with good driving records and adequate experience, sober, courteous, mentally and physically fit, honest and not persons who would take advantage of their employment.
- 3.4 Some discretion may be appropriate if the offence is isolated and there are mitigating circumstances. Similarly, multiple offences or a series of offences over a period of time are likely to give greater cause for concern and may demonstrate a pattern of inappropriate behaviour which will be taken into account.
- 3.5 Details of the relevant policy extracts can be found on the background paper.

#### **4. Licensing Comments**

- 4.1 The authority is under a statutory obligation to ensure that persons licensed as Private Hire drivers are fit and proper people. Public safety is the authority's primary concern and therefore applicants are expected to demonstrate a high standard of driving and behaviour.
- 4.2 Members are advised that Mr Charles still needs to complete all of the tests, assessments and requirements to obtain a Private Hire driver's licence of which one is a driving assessment.
- 4.3 Members will note from the accompanying background papers that Mr Charles' application does not satisfy the policy requirements.
- 4.4 If Members are minded to grant this application contrary to the provisions of the authority's licensing policy, the sub-committee is under duty to provide clear and comprehensive reasons for doing so.
- 4.5 Mr Julian Charles has been sent a copy of this report and invited to attend this meeting to speak in support of his application and to answer members' questions or to be represented.
- 4.6 In considering the application on its own merits Members should have regard to the adopted Probity Guide.

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#### **Background Papers**

Service Records

#### **Report Author**

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