

Meeting of the **LICENSING COMMITTEE** of the Teesdale District Council  
held at Teesdale House, Galgate, Barnard Castle on  
**THURSDAY 18 SEPTEMBER 2008 at 10.00 am**

**PRESENT:** KJ Hodgson Chair

**Councillors:**

K Coates	MWL Hamilton
MM English	J Priestley
DAR Forster	DH Reed

**Officers:**

G Keay	Licensing & Enforcement Team Leader
G Robinson	Democratic Services Officer

**Also present:**

L Swinhoe, Head of Legal Services, Darlington Borough Council  
PCSO C Angus, Police Licensing Unit  
Applicant  
Applicant's Representative/Current Employer

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Smith and K Watson

**3 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of urgent business to be considered.

**4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**5 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

***RESOLVED:***

That under section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, minute 6, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1, Schedule 12A of the said Act.

In accordance with the Licensing Hearing procedure, the Chair introduced those members and officers present at the meeting.

**6 DETERMINATION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A COMBINED HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

The Licensing & Enforcement Team Leader presented a report outlining the reasons why this application had been brought before the Licensing Committee. A number of character reference letters were read out. The report also summarised the legislation relevant to a case of this kind.

The applicant then addressed the Committee, following which both members and the Legal Officer had an opportunity to ask questions of the applicant.

The Committee was then addressed by PCSO C Angus with regard to the convictions and cautions that had been disclosed; members had an opportunity to ask questions of PCSO C Angus.

Officers were then given an opportunity to comment. The Applicant made a closing statement

Once the Licensing & Enforcement Team Leader, the applicant and the applicant's representative, together with PCSO C Angus, had withdrawn from the Council Chamber, members of the Committee proceeded to consider their decision.

During this process, further evidence was brought to the attention of members and all parties were called back into the Council Chamber to enable the applicant to clarify a number of issues. The applicant, applicant's representative, Licensing & Enforcement Team Leader and PCSO C Angus once more withdrew from the Council Chamber while members resumed their deliberations.

***RESOLVED:***

That, in spite of serious concerns in relation to the previous convictions and cautions held by the applicant, and having considered all the evidence, the application be granted.

The Chair emphasised that, should any further convictions or concerns about the fitness of the applicant to hold a licence arise, then the applicant would be required to attend a further meeting of the Licensing Committee, where the licence could be revoked.

The meeting closed at 10.50am

**CHAIRMAN**