

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (2)** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 8 January 2020 at 10.00 am**

Present:

Councillor C Carr (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Bell, B Kellett and A Reed

Also Present:

S Grigor – Council's Solicitor

N Gill - Licensing Enforcement Officer

PC I Robertson – Durham Constabulary

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Jopling, J Maitland and D Stoker.

2 Substitutes

Councillors B Kellett and A Reed were present as substitutes.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2019 were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Exclusion of the Public

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2,3 and 5 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

6 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which asked Members to consider the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Driver (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and Members and the Licence Holder were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

A representative from Durham Constabulary was in attendance and confirmed the details provided in the report. Members and the Licence Holder were given an opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Licence Holder was invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members and Officers.

After all parties had been given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 10.25am. After re-convening at 10.40am the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder be suspended for 12 months but the suspension be suspended for 12 months.

7 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver

The Licensing Enforcement Officer informed Members that the Licence Holder's Solicitor had submitted a letter for the attention of the Chair which advised that the Licence Holder would not be in attendance and requested an adjournment. Members were provided with a copy of the letter which outlined the reasons for the request.

Members considered the request and agreed to proceed in the Licence Holder's absence as the matter had been outstanding for some considerable time.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services which asked Members to consider the

ongoing suitability of a Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Driver (for copy see file of Minutes).

The representative from Durham Constabulary provided Members with background information in respect of the previous offences referred to in the report.

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and gave details of the incident on 3 July 2019. Members were invited to ask questions of the Officer.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 11.05am. After re-convening at 11.10am the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder's Hackney Carriage Driver Licence be revoked with immediate effect.