

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (1)** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **9 February 2022** at **1.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor D Brown in the Chair

Members of the Sub-Committee:

Councillors B Coult, T Duffy, J Griffiths and C Hunt

1 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2 Substitute Members

No substitute members were in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of interest

The Chair, Councillor Brown, declared an interest in respect of agenda item 9 and he confirmed he would leave the meeting during the consideration of the item and that Councillor Hunt would take the Chair in his absence.

5 Exclusion of the public

Resolved:

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 and Private Hire Driver

The Licensing Enforcement Officer informed Members that the Licence Holder had not presented for the hearing. Members asked for clarification as to the steps taken to contact the Licence Holder. After receiving confirmation that reasonable steps had been taken to contact the Licence Holder, Members discussed the matter and agreed to proceed in the Licence Holder's absence.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services regarding the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Sub-Committee and the Council's Solicitor asked questions on the report which was presented by the Licensing Enforcement Officer.

After summing up, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 1.40 pm. After re-convening at 1.45 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

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

The Sub-Committee agreed that agenda item 9 would be considered as the next item of business.

Councillor Brown withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Hunt in the Chair

7 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Joint 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 as to the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Joint Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and the parties were given the opportunity to ask the officer questions.

The Licence Holder then addressed the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from the parties.

All parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement and the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application, in private, at 2.00 pm. After re-convening at 2.15 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder be issued with a six-month written warning.

Councillor Brown re-joined the meeting.

Councillor Brown in the Chair

8 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Joint Driver

The Licensing Enforcement Officer informed Members that the Licence Holder had not presented for the hearing. Members asked for clarification as to the steps taken to ensure the Licence Holder was aware of the hearing. After receiving confirmation that reasonable steps had been taken, Members discussed the matter and agreed to proceed in the Licence Holder's absence.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Regeneration and Local Services regarding the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Joint Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Sub-Committee and the Council's Solicitor asked questions on the report which was presented by the Licensing Enforcement Officer.

After summing up, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.35 pm. After re-convening at 2.50 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

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