

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (2)** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 1.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor L Brown (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors J Griffiths, C Hunt, B Kellett and L Mavin

Also Present:

S Grigor – Council's Solicitor

L Cloney – Team Leader, Licensing Enforcement

PC Newcombe – Durham Constabulary

L Ball – Licensing Enforcement Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Atkinson, J Chaplow and T Duffy.

2 Substitutes

Councillors J Griffiths, B Kellett and L Mavin were in attendance as substitute Members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

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 item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1,2, 3 and 5 of Schedule 12A to the said Act.

6 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and Private Hire Operator Licence

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

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to determine the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver and continue to hold a Private Hire Operator Licence (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Team Leader, Licensing Enforcement presented the report and indicated that the Licence Holder had provided additional information that had been circulated to all parties prior to the meeting. The Licensing Team Leader then circulated character references provided by the Licence Holder that had been verified. Members were given the opportunity to read the character references. The Licence Holder, Members, Durham Constabulary and Officers were then given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

A representative from Durham Constabulary was then invited to address the Sub-Committee and provided Members with information held on their systems. The Licence Holder, Members and Officers were given the opportunity to ask questions.

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

After all parties were given the opportunity to sum up, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.10 pm. After re-convening at 2.30 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved: That the Licence Holder be issued with a 6-month written warning.

The Licensing Team Leader and PC Newcombe withdrew from the meeting

7 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver to hold a licence from Durham County Council

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

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to determine the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer was in attendance to present the report and circulated a character reference provided by the Licence Holder that had been verified. The Licence Holder, Members and Officers were invited to ask questions of the Licensing Enforcement Officer.

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

After all parties were given the opportunity to sum up, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.45 pm. After re-convening at 2.50 pm the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved: That no further action be taken.