

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (3)** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 17 May 2023 at 1.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor J Blakey (Chair)

Members of the Sub-Committee:

Councillors P Atkinson and G Hutchinson

Also Present:

Mrs G Proud – Council’s Solicitor

Mr M Haigh – Licensing Enforcement Officer

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Kellett and D Stoker.

2 Substitute Members

There were no substitute Members.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 5 April 2023 were agreed as correct records 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 Joint Driver

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

The Sub-Committee considered a 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 see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and confirmed that that the Licence Holder had provided additional information that had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting. All parties were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Licence Holder and his Employer were then invited to address the Sub-Committee. Members and Officers were given the opportunity to ask questions.

After all parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 1.45pm. After re-convening at 1.50 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

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

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 a 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 Private Hire Driver (for copy see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and advised Members of a typo in the report and that it was consideration of a Private Hire Driver and not a Joint Driver as stated in the report. All parties were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Licence Holder was then invited to address the Sub-Committee. Members and Officers were given the opportunity to ask questions.

After all parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.15pm. After re-convening at 2.35 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved: That the Licence Holder's Private Hire Driver Licence be suspended pending completion of the Durham County Council Licensed Driver Improvement Scheme.