

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (1)** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 14 February 2024** at **1.30 pm**

Present:

Councillor D Brown (Chair)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors O Gunn and G Hutchinson

Also Present:

N Anderson – Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer
Licence Holder and two persons in support of the Licence Holder
PC A Newcombe – Durham Constabulary
S Stoker – Licensing Enforcement Officer
F Swift – Solicitor, Durham County Council

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow and A Reed.

2 Substitutes

No substitute members were in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 January 2024 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 Driver

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder and two persons in support of the Licence Holder to the meeting. Introductions were made and the meeting procedure was outlined.

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighborhoods and Climate Change to determine the ongoing suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver which was presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer. Unverified character references in support of the Licence Holder were circulated to the Sub-Committee at the meeting (for copy of report and additional information, see file of minutes).

PC Alan Newcombe of Durham Constabulary provided background information in relation to the police records held on the Licence Holder; the incident under consideration and the progress of the live investigation.

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer and PC Alan Newcombe answered questions.

One of Licence Holder's supporting persons addressed the Sub-Committee on behalf of the Licence Holder and the Licence Holder and the supporting persons answered questions.

After the parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter, in private, at 2.15pm. After reconvening at approximately 2.30pm, the Chair delivered the decision of the Sub-Committee.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder's hackney carriage driver's licence be revoked with immediate effect.