

I DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (1)

At a meeting of the **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (1)** held in **Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham** on **Wednesday 12 June 2024** at **9.30am**

Present:

Councillor D Brown (Chair)

Members of the Sub-Committee:

Councillors J Blakey, B Coult, G Hutchinson and L Mavin

Also in attendance:

H Couzens - Licensing Enforcement Officer
M Haigh - Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer
PC A Newcombe - Durham Constabulary
G Proud – Council's Solicitor

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence were received.

2 Substitutes

No substitute members were in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 May 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 and Private Hire 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 a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver which was presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The parties were given the opportunity to ask questions in relation to the report.

The Sub-Committee then viewed dashcam footage and PC A Newcombe of Durham Constabulary provided commentary on the footage.

The Licence Holder made representations to the Sub-Committee and provided further information in answer to questions.

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer and the Licence Holder made closing statements and the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter in private, at 10.15am. The meeting re-convened at 10.25am and the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver be issued with a written warning for a period of twelve months.

7 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Private Hire Driver

Prior to the commencement of the business, a brief discussion took place between the Licence Holder, the Licensing Officer and the Council's Solicitor.

The Council's Solicitor explained to the Sub-Committee that the Licence Holder had declined to appear in front of the Sub-Committee and had requested that the matter be heard in his absence.

The Sub-Committee agreed to consider the matter in the absence of the Licence Holder.

The Sub-Committee then considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to determine the ongoing suitability of a Private Hire Driver, which was presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

No questions were raised in relation to the report.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter in private at 10.45am and at 10.50am the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Private Hire Driver's licence be revoked with immediate effect.