

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (1)** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 13 November 2019 at 1.00 pm**

**Present:**

**Councillor P Crathorne (Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors P Jopling, T Tucker and A Willis

**Also Present:**

S Grigor (Council's Solicitor)  
I Dargue (Licensing Enforcement Officer)  
PC Robinson (Durham Constabulary)  
Sgt Pygall (Durham Constabulary)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clarke and Marshall.

### **2 Substitutes**

Councillor P Crathorne substituted for Councillor L Marshall.

### **3 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### **4 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declaration of interest.

### **5 Exclusion of the Public**

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 of 12A of the Act.

## **6 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Private Hire Driver, Private Hire Operator and Private Hire Vehicle Licence Holder**

The Licensing Enforcement Officer advised Members that the Licence Holder had indicated that he would not be in attendance today and would be surrendering his Private Hire Drivers Licence and Private Hire Operator Licence.

The Licence Holder had provided a letter that was circulated to Members at the meeting.

Members agreed to consider the application in the absence of the Licence Holder.

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

The Licensing Enforcement Officer was in attendance to outline the report. Members and Officers were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

Durham Constabulary were in attendance to provide the details of any information held on their systems. Members and Officers were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officers.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 1.20 pm. After re-convening at 1.35 pm the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Licence Holder's Private Hire Drivers Licence and Private Hire Operators Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

**Durham Constabulary and the Licensing Team Leader withdrew from the Meeting**

**Councillor A Willis joined the meeting**

## **7 Consideration of the Ongoing suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver**

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 Regeneration and Local Services to determine the suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer was in attendance to outline the report and advised Members that Durham Constabulary had indicated that they had nothing further to add to the report. Members and the Licence Holder were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

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

After Summing up, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 1.50 am. After re-convening at 2.05 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Hackney Carriage Driver be given a suspended suspension for a 6 month period.

## **8 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver**

The Licence Holder did not attend the meeting. Members agreed to hear the application in the absence of the Licence Holder.

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

The Licensing Enforcement Officer was in attendance to outline the report. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.15 pm. After re-convening at 2.20 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Licence Holder's Hackney Carriage Drivers Licence be revoked with immediate effect.

## **9 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Private Hire Driver**

The Licence Enforcement Officer advised Members that the Licence Holder had advised that he was unable to attend the meeting but was happy for the matter to be discussed in his absence.

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

The Licensing Enforcement Officer was in attendance to outline the report. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.30 pm. After re-convening at 2.50 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Licence Holder's Private Hire Drivers Licence be suspended for 3 months with immediate effect.