

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 **14 October 2024** at **9.30am**

Present:

Councillor D Brown in the Chair

Members of the Sub-Committee:

Councillors O Gunn, G Hutchinson and D Sutton-Lloyd

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor R Potts.

2 Substitutes

No substitute members were in attendance.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 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 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 12A of the Act.

6 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder, a person in support of the Licence Holder and an Interpreter to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Council's Solicitor outlined the procedure for the hearing, adding that time would be allowed for the Interpreter to interpret all that was said.

The Sub-Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to determine the ongoing suitability of a hackney carriage driver which was presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer (for copy of report and additional information from the Licence Holder including verified references, see file of minutes).

No questions were raised in respect of the report.

The volunteer test purchaser entered the meeting and addressed the Sub-Committee. No questions were asked of the test purchaser and the test purchaser then left the meeting.

The Licence Holder made representations to the Sub-Committee, through the Interpreter. Additional comments were provided by the person in support of the Licence Holder. The Licence Holder and the supporting person then answered questions from the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer, the Sub-Committee and the Council's Solicitor.

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer made a closing statement, followed by the person in support of the Licence Holder and the Licence Holder.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter, in private, at approximately 10.40am and at 11.50am the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

The Sub-Committee suspended the hackney carriage driver's licence for a period of two months.

Councillor O Gunn left the meeting.

7 Consideration of an Application to be licensed as a Private Hire Driver

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and a person in support of the Applicant 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 application for a private hire operator's licence, presented by the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer answered a question from the Council's Solicitor in relation to the report.

The Applicant then addressed the Sub-Committee and answered questions from the Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer, the Sub-Committee and the Council's Solicitor.

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer and the Applicant made closing statements.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter, in private, at approximately 12.15pm. On reconvening at 12.40pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

The Sub-Committee refused the application for the grant of a private hire operator's licence.