

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (2)**  
held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Thursday 5 September**  
**2024 at 9.30 am**

**Present:**

**Councillor I McLean (Chair)**

**Members of the Committee:**

Councillors L Brown and G Hutchinson

**Also Present:**

Agenda Item Nos. 1 to 8

S Buston – Council’s Solicitor

I Dargue – Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer

Agenda Item Nos. 9 to 11

F Swift – Council’s Solicitor

N Anderson – Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Atkinson and B Coult.

### **2 Substitute Members**

Councillor G Hutchinson was in attendance as a Substitute Member.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 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 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**

That consideration of the item, be deferred until 18 September 2024.

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

The Chair welcomed the Applicant and his Employer to the meeting and introduction were made.

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director of Neighbourhoods and Climate Change to determine the suitability of the Applicant to be licensed as a Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and provided Members with the correct post code and advised of an incorrect name contained within the report. Members were then provided with the options open to the Sub-Committee.

All parties were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Applicant and his Employer were then invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members and Officers.

After all parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter in private, at 9.45 am. After re-convening at 9.50 am, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Applicant be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence.

## **8 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver**

The Chair welcomed the Licence Holder and his Supporter to the meeting and introduction were made.

The Sub-Committee considered the 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 of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and provided Members with some amendments to the dates of offences contained in the report. Members were then provided with the options open to the Sub-Committee.

All parties were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Licence Holder and his Supporter were then invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members and Officers.

After all parties were given the opportunity to make a closing statement, the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter in private, at 10.35 am. After re-convening at 10.55 am, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Licence Holders' Joint Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence be suspended until the successful completion of the Driver Improvement Scheme.

## **9 Consideration of the Ongoing Suitability of a Private Hire Operator and Vehicle Licence Holder**

The Senior Licensing Enforcement Officer advised Members that the Licence Holder had indicated that she would not be in attendance at the hearing.

Members considered whether to proceed in the absence of the Licence Holder and agreed that the hearing should proceed.

The Sub-Committee considered the 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 Operator and Vehicle Licence Holder (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the report and provided details of the options open to the Sub-Committee.

Members and the Council's Solicitor were given the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the matter in private, at 11.25 am. After re-convening at 11.35 am, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Private Hire Operator and Vehicle Licences be revoked.