

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (2)** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 17 December 2014 at 2.00 pm**

Present:

Councillor C Carr (Chairman)

Members of the Committee:

Councillors D Bell, P Crathorne and T Nearney

Also Present:

S Buston (Solicitor)
H Johnson (Licensing Team Leader)
Sgt Tim Robson (Durham Constabulary)
PCSO M Haigh (Durham Constabulary)
N Thornton (Licensing Enforcement Officer)
J Ingham (Licensing Enforcement Officer)
J Graham (Parking Services Supervisor)
C Ford (Parking Services Assistant)

1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Blakey.

2 Substitutes

There were no substitute members in attendance.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

5 Exclusion of the Public

Resolved:

That under Section 100A(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 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6 Application for the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver

The Licence Holder did not attend the meeting. Members were provided with a letter from the Licence Holder's Solicitor asking for an adjournment. Members agreed to hear the application in the absence of the Licence Holder due to the number of times it had already been adjourned.

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which requested the Sub-Committee to consider and determine the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licenced as a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver (for copy see file of Minutes).

A representative from the Enforcement Team and the Council's Parking Services were in attendance to present the report and answer any questions.

A representative from Durham Constabulary addressed the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.20 pm. After reconvening at 2.30 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder be issued with a written warning for a 12 month period.

N Thornton, C Ford and J Graham withdrew from the meeting

7 Application for the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver

The Chairman welcomed the Licence Holder to the meeting and introductions were made.

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which requested the Sub-Committee to consider and determine the suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licenced as a Hackney Carriage / Private Hire Driver (for copy see file of minutes).

A representative from Durham Constabulary addressed the Sub-Committee and indicated that they had concerns but no objections to the continuation of the Licence. The Licence Holder was given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Licence Holder addressed the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 2.40 pm. After reconvening at 2.45 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the suspension be lifted but the Licence Holder be issued with a written warning for a 12 month period.

8 Application for the Ongoing Suitability of a Hackney Carriage Driver

The Chairman welcomed the Licence Holder to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Licence Holder circulated additional information to Members of the Sub-Committee.

The meeting adjourned to allow Members to read the additional information and for the references to be verified.

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which requested the Sub-Committee to consider and determine the suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage Driver (for copy see file of minutes).

The Licensing Team Leader advised the Sub-Committee that the references had been verified.

Mr Ingraham from Enforcement presented the report and responded to questions.

A representative from Durham Constabulary addressed the Sub-Committee and indicated that they had concerns but no objections to the continuation of the licence.

The Licence Holder was given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Licence Holder addressed the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 3.15 pm. After reconvening at 3.20 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Licence Holder be issued with a written warning for a 6 month period.

9 Application for the Grant of a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence

The Chairman welcomed the Applicant to the meeting and introductions were made.

Consideration was given to the report of the Corporate Director, Neighbourhood Services which requested the Sub-Committee to consider and determine the suitability of the Applicant to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver (for copy see file of minutes).

A representative from Durham Constabulary addressed the Sub-Committee and indicated that they had concerns but no objections to the granting of the Licence. The Applicant was given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Applicant addressed the Sub-Committee and responded to questions from Members.

The Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 3.40 pm. After reconvening at 3.50 pm, the Chair delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

Resolved:

That the Applicant be granted a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence but he be issued with a written warning for a 6 month period.