

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a Meeting of **General Licensing and Registration Sub-Committee (2)** held in Council Chamber, County Hall, Durham on **Wednesday 1 February 2017 at 10.00 am**

### **Present:**

**Councillor C Carr (Chairman)**

### **Members of the Committee:**

Councillors P Crathorne and A Willis

### **Also Present:**

Mr G Keay (Licensing Team Leader)

Mr S Buston (Council's Solicitor)

Mrs N Anderson (Licensing Enforcement Officer)

Mr I Dargue (Licensing Enforcement Officer)

Sgt C Dickinson (Durham Constabulary)

Det. Constable Haythorne-thwaite (Durham Constabulary)

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor D Bell.

### **2 Substitutes**

There were no substitute Members in attendance.

### **3 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 December 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

### **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 12 A to the said Act.

## **6 Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence**

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

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director Adults and Health Services which requested Members to determine the suitability of the Applicant to be licenced as a Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Team Leader provided Members with two references that the Applicant had provided, one of which had been verified.

Clarification was sought from the Applicant on the date of his application. The Applicant confirmed that it was 2016 and not 2015 as stated on the application form.

The Chairman sought clarification if the Applicant had completed and passed the DVSA taxi driver assessment test. The Applicant confirmed that he had not taken the test.

A representative from Durham Constabulary was in attendance and provided Members with background information in respect of the matter detailed in the report and confirmed that the Applicant had no motoring offences. Members and the Applicant were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Applicant was invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

All parties were invited to sum up then the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 10.20 am. After re-convening at 10.35 am the Chairman delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** That the Applicant be granted a Private Hire Driver Licence subject to him successfully completing a DVSA taxi driver assessment test within 2 months.

## **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.

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director Adults and Health Services which requested Members to determine the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the enforcement report. Members and the Licence Holder were given the opportunity to answer questions of the Officer.

A representative from Durham Constabulary was in attendance and confirmed that the Licence Holder had no convictions.

The Licence Holder was invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

All parties were invited to sum up then the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 11.20 am. After re-convening at 11.35 am the Chairman delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

**Resolved:** (i) That the Licence Holder's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver Licence be suspended pending the successful completion of a DVSA taxi driver assessment test within 2 months.

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

**Mrs N Anderson (Licensing Enforcement Officer) left the meeting**

**Mr I Dargue (Licensing Enforcement Officer) joined the meeting**

## **8 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.

The Committee considered the report of the Corporate Director Adults and Health Services which requested Members to determine the ongoing suitability of the Licence Holder to continue to be licensed as a Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Driver (for copy of report, see file of minutes).

The Licensing Enforcement Officer presented the enforcement report. Members and the Licence Holder were given the opportunity to answer questions of the Officer.

A representative from Durham Constabulary was in attendance and provided Members with background information in respect of the matters detailed in the report. Members and the Licence Holder were given the opportunity to ask questions.

The Licence Holder was invited to address the Sub-Committee and responded to questions.

All parties were invited to sum up then the Sub-Committee retired to deliberate the application in private at 12.05 pm. After re-convening at 12.10 pm the Chairman delivered the Sub-Committee's decision.

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