

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 19 April 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Dulston, A J Scott and Snedker

APOLOGIES – Councillors Donoghue and B Jones

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Sgt C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary) and Bethany Symonds (Lawyer)

LGS13 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED - That Councillor Councillor Snedker be elected Chair for the purpose of this meeting

LGS14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

LGS15 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That, pursuant to Sections 100A (4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the ensuing item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in exclusion paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

LGS16 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE REVIEW (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 7)

Ref 03/22 - The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a review of the licence of a private hire driver in light of the recent allegations of your recent arrest for a stalking offence and the ongoing criminal investigation.

The driver attended the meeting and responded to Members questions in relation to the above, and to why they felt that they were a fit and proper person to hold a Private Hire Driver Licence.

In reaching their decision, Members took into consideration the Council's Licensing Policy, which sets out the Council's stance on the Relevance of Convictions, Cautions and Endorseable Fixed Penalties in assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person; the Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and Procedures; Section 52 of the Road Safety Act 2006 as amended Section 61 of the 1976 Act; and Section 61(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to revoke the drivers private hire driver licence with immediate effect for the reasons that although they had not been charged or convicted, they admitted to the offence of stalking with fear of violence; they used their taxi when perpetrating the offence; and given the nature of the offence, the Members decided that they would not feel comfortable with members of their family being a passenger in the

driver's taxi.

RESOLVED – That the Licence be revoked under Section 61(1(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.