

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 5 September 2023

PRESENT – Councillors , Ali, Allen, Mrs Culley and Kane

APOLOGIES – Councillors ,

ABSENT – Councillors Robinson

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Bethany Symonds (Lawyer), PC Alan Newcombe (Durham Constabulary), Charlotte Martin (Durham Constabulary) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

LGS13 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

RESOLVED - That Councillor Kane 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 APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 7)

The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to two applications for grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence.

Ref: 13/23

To give consideration to an application for grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of a previous conviction.

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 guidance as to the Relevance of Convictions, Cautions, Reprimands, Fixed Penalties, Warnings and Complaints in assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person; the Council's Private Hire and

Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and Procedures; and Section 51 (1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to refuse the application in light of a previous conviction and following additional information that had come to light during the meeting regarding a further conviction. Members felt that the applicant had been dishonest and agreed that there was no reason to step outside of their policy.

RESOLVED – That the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be refused.

Ref: 14/23

To give consideration to an application for grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of previous convictions and medical information.

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 guidance as to the Relevance of Convictions, Cautions, Reprimands, Fixed Penalties, Warnings and Complaints in assessing whether an applicant is a fit and proper person; the Council's Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy and Procedures; and Section 51 (1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to refuse the application in light of previous convictions and agreed that there was no reason to step outside of their policy.

RESOLVED – That the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver Licence be refused.