

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

PRESENT – Councillors C L B Hughes, Lee, Newall and Snedker

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Amy Wennington (Principal Lawyer (Litigation)), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Allison Hill (Democratic Officer), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Sgt C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary), PC Newcombe (Durham Constabulary) and Chris Knox (Community Safety Programme Manager)

LGS1 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

LGS2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

LGS3 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.

LGS4 REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE/HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCE (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 7)

REF 04/22- The Group Director of Services submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a review of a Private Hire/Hackney Carriage Driver Licence in light of three new motoring convictions.

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/Hackney Carriage 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; and Section 61(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to permit the driver to retain their licence as they had been delivering a valuable public service at a time of great stress however in relation to the lack of care and responsibility shown towards the general public by committing those offences the driver be issued with a warning letter in relation to their conduct; and also a requirement to undertake and successfully undertake the Safe and

Consideration Driving Course.

RESOLVED – (a) That the licence be retained and the driver be issued with a warning letter in respect of future conduct and warned that if any further convictions, cautions, warnings or reprimands are received they would be referred immediately to the General Licensing Sub-Committee.

(b) That the driver be successfully undertake the Safe and Consideration Driving Course, at their own expense and that the course be completed prior to 30 September 2022.