

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 28 January 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Mrs Culley, Curry, Dulston, Kane and K Nicholson

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jim Langley (Principal Lawyer - Litigation), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Mark Walton (Licensing Enforcement Officer), Sgt C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary), PCSO Nicole Bell (Durham Constabulary), PC Gav Rutter (Durham Constabulary) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

LGS18 ELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

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

LGS19 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

LGS20 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.

LGS21 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATION FOR GRANT (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 7)

Ref 01/25 - The Assistant Director Economic Growth submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to an application for a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of previous 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 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 51 (1)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to grant the driver a Private Hire Driver Licence. In doing so, Members noted that the driver's last conviction for violence was eighteen years ago and that the driver had turned their life around since the last offence had been committed. Members decided that a warning as to future conduct should also be issued due to the nature of the driver's previous convictions.

RESOLVED – That the Private Hire Driver licence be granted 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.