

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 21 October 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Kane (Chair), Donoghue, Lawley, K Nicholson and Toms

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Jim Langley (Principal Lawyer - Litigation), Colin Dobson (Licensing Manager), Brian Murray (Assistant Licensing Manager), Sgt C Dickenson (Durham Constabulary), James McAllister (Democratic Officer) and Marc Atkins (Lawyer (Litigation))

LGS26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

LGS27 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.

LGS28 PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT AND REVIEWS OF A HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER LICENCE AND A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER LICENCE (EXCLUSION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 7)

The Executive Director of Economy and Public Protection submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a review of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of a new conviction and a review of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of an ongoing investigation by Durham Constabulary.

Ref 04/25

To give consideration to a review of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of a new 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 Licensing Policy, which sets out the Council's stance on 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 Section 61(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to revoke the Private Hire Driver Licence, with immediate effect, in accordance with sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in the interests of public safety. Members made this decision due to the fact that the driver was banned from driving for 23 months, and had been blown far over the legal limit when subjected to a breathalyser by Durham

Consutbulary.

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

Ref 05/25

To give consideration to a review of a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of an ongoing investigation by Cheshire Police.

The driver did not attend the meeting and was therefore unable to respond to Members questions as to why they were a fit and proper person to retain 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, 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 Section 61(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to revoke the Private Hire Driver Licence, with immediate effect, in accordance with sections 61(1)(b) and 61(2B) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 in the interests of public safety.

Members made this decision due to the nature of the alleged offence.

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