

GENERAL LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 December 2025

PRESENT – Councillors Kane (Chair), Mrs Culley, K Nicholson, Toms and Ali.

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

LGS29 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at this meeting.

LGS30 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.

LGS31 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)

Ref: 06/25

The Executive of Economy and Public Protection submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a Private Hire Driver Licence in light of a new motoring 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 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 provide the applicant with a final written warning, offering advice to the applicant with regards to their attitude towards authorities.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver licence be granted and the driver be issued with a final warning letter.

Ref: 07/25

The Executive of Economy and Public Protection submitted a report (previously circulated) to give consideration to a Private Hire Driver Licence following allegations of comments posted on social media.

The driver attended the meeting and responded to Members questions in relation to the allegations, and as to why they felt that they remain 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 61 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

After careful consideration Members decided to provide the applicant with a final written warning and mandated that the applicant complete an equality and diversity training course at their own expense.

RESOLVED – That the Hackney Carriage/Private Hire Driver licence be granted and that the driver complete equality and diversity training. Once completed, the certificates for such training must be provided to Licencing within 6 months.