

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

LICENSING AND REGULATORY SUB-COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Licensing and Regulatory Sub-Committee held in the Chairman's Dining Room, County Hall, Morpeth, NE61 2EF on Thursday, 28 March 2019 at 10.00 am.**

PRESENT

Councillor J I Hutchinson
(in the Chair)

MEMBERS

R Gibson
K Parry

W Pattison (Reserve)

OFFICERS

H Bowers
M Bulman
G Hughes

Democratic Services Officer
Solicitor, Regulation
Senior Licensing Officer

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Hutchinson be elected as Chair for the duration of the meeting.

2. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:-

(a) that under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the Agenda as they involved the likely discussion of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of the Schedule 12(A) of the 1972 Act, and
(b) that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure for the following reasons:-

Agenda Item 4, Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A

"information relating to any individual."

PART II

3. REPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMPLIANCE AND PUBLIC SAFETY UNIT MANAGER

Case No. 28/03/19/403

The Chair welcomed the licence holder. Introductions were made and the Chair explained the procedure to be followed.

The Licensing Officer referred to a letter submitted by the applicant which was circulated to members of the sub-committee.

The applicant was asked to confirm his name and address.

The Licensing Officer summarised the report and explained that an issue had arisen associated with the licence holder's suitability to continue to hold a private hire driver's licence and hackney carriage driver's licence.

The sub committee was asked to consider the application and the applicant's representations along with the written and oral report of the Licensing Manager and relevant law and guidance policy to determine whether or not the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold such a licence.

The applicant submitted his case in support of his application and then answered questions from the sub committee.

Members of the sub committee remained in the meeting to deliberate and make their decision and all others, except the legal advisor, left the room.

All returned to the meeting and the Chair declared that in this instance the sub committee were not going to take any further action regarding the driver's licences and would renew the hackney carriage vehicle licence. The hackney carriage vehicle licence was to be suspended until the new vehicle was presented for an MoT.

Reason:

The sub-committee have taken into account the applicant's good record.

Case No. 28/03/19/402

The applicant was not in attendance but had submitted documents to Licensing for consideration.

The sub-committee determined to adjourn the application for Licensing to consider documents submitted by the applicant. If Licensing were content with the documentation, the matter could be dealt with by delegated authority.

Case No. 28/03/19/401

The applicant did not attend as he was serving a custodial sentence.

Summary of Reasons

The sub-committee refused to renew the hackney carriage driver's licence as they felt that the applicant was not an honest or trustworthy person. The applicant had been convicted of very serious offences and was sentenced to imprisonment.

The sub-committee have taken into account the Council's guidelines and the sub-committee see no reason to depart from the guidelines.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____