

Chair - Councillor P W Jones

Present (for all or part of the meeting):-

Councillors:

I D Fordham

A M Loughran

A D Hobbs

R M Sutherland

E G R Jones

M J Winnington

Officers in attendance:

Mr R Simpson - Head of Operations

Mrs J Wallace - Licensing Manager

Mr S Turner - Legal Services Manager

Miss K McKinney - Senior Licensing and Enviro-Crime Officer

Mr J Dean - Democratic Services Officer

Also present:

The License Holder

PA1 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 as published in Digest No 275 on 9 April 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

PA2 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M V Holmes (substituted by Councillor A D Hobbs).

PA3 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED:- that pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting whilst the next following item of business be discussed, on the grounds that it includes the disclosure of exempt information of the type specified in Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

Recording of the meeting was paused at this point.

PA4 Fit and Proper Person - Confidential

Considered the Confidential report of the Licensing Manager (V3 10/11/21) regarding this matter.

The License Holder was present during consideration of the item.

The Licensing Manager outlined the case as set out in the report.

The License Holder was provided with the opportunity to ask any resulting questions of the Licensing Manager.

The Committee were then afforded the opportunity to ask questions of the Officer.

The License Holder stated their case.

The Licensing Manager was given the opportunity to ask any resulting questions of the License Holder.

Members of the Committee subsequently asked a number of questions of the License Holder.

The Licensing Manager was given the opportunity to sum up her case.

The Licence Holder was given the opportunity to sum up their case.

The Head of Operations, the Licensing Manager, the Senior Licensing and Enviro-Crime Officer and the License Holder then withdrew from the meeting whilst the Committee considered the case in private.

At the request of the Chairman all parties were invited to re-join the meeting.

Recording of the meeting was restarted at this point.

RESOLVED:- that in exercise of the authority delegated to the Committee the License Holder's private hire operator's Licence be suspended for one week.

Reasons for Decision:-

The Committee considered that this case raised serious concerns around the conduct of the private hire operator in that –

They permitted an unlicensed driver to drive a licensed private hire vehicle;

The licensed vehicle was driven with more passengers than permitted;

The operator made an inaccurate record of the person driving the licensed private hire vehicle

However the Committee considered their previous good conduct, their cooperation with the investigation, and the assurances they gave.

The Committee felt that the suspension was a proportionate decision and should serve to discourage further breaches of this nature.

CHAIR