

LICENSING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

At a meeting of this Committee held on
2 September 2020

(Present) **Councillors Bell, Cunliffe, Grunewald, J Jackson, P Jackson, Jones, T Long, McQuade, O’Keefe, Osundeko, Pritchard, Pearl, Tasker and Uddin**

(Not Present) **Councillor Banks**

69 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

- * **Resolved that Councillor T Long be appointed as Chairman for this meeting.**

Councillor T Long here took the Chair.

70 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Banks.

71 MINUTES

- * **Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2020 be approved.**

72 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

73 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

- * **Resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items for the reason stated:**

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Reason (under Local Government Act 1972)</u>
74 & 75	Information relating to an individual in accordance with Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12(a).

74 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER’S LICENCE (REF: HD1713)

A report was presented to the Committee in relation to the review of existing Hackney/Private Hire Driver’s Licence (Ref: HD1713).

Members were informed that this review had been referred to Committee following a complaint that Licensing had received about the alleged conduct of HD1713 whilst they were working as a licensed driver in December 2019.

Copies of the complaint and the complainant’s witness statement, evidence and witness statement provided by HD1713, interview notes of meetings held with Licensing and HD1713 were attached to the report at Appendices A-H respectively.

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HD1713 attended the meeting via a phone link.

The complainant then joined the meeting via a phone link and was invited to present their case to Members and answer questions. The complainant then left the meeting.

HD1713 was then given every opportunity to present their case to Members and answer questions. HD1713 was then invited to sum up their case and was advised that the Committee's decision would be conveyed to them the following day, with a detailed decision letter to follow in due course.

HD1713 and Licensing Officers then left the meeting whilst the Committee deliberated in private with the Council's Solicitor.

* **Resolved that on the balance of probabilities, no action be taken.**

All Licensing Officers here returned to the meeting.

75 REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE/PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE **(REF: HD1625)**

A report was presented to the Committee in relation to a review of existing Hackney/Private Hire Driver's Licence (Ref: HD1625).

Members were informed that this review had been referred to Committee following a referral that Licensing had received via Merseyside Police in relation to three separate incidents of inappropriate behaviour by HD1625.

Copies of the information provided by Merseyside Police and the complainant's witness statement, interview notes of meetings held with Licensing and HD1625 and a character reference for HD1625 were attached to the report at Appendices A-D respectively.

HD1625 attended the meeting via a phone link.

The complainant then joined the meeting via a phone link and was invited to present their case to Members and answer questions. The complainant then left the meeting.

HD1625 was then given every opportunity to present their case to Members and answer questions. HD1625 was then invited to sum up their case and was advised that the Committee's decision would be conveyed to them the following day, with a detailed decision letter to follow in due course.

HD1625 and Licensing Officers then left the meeting whilst the Committee deliberated in private with the Council's Solicitor.

All Licensing Officers here returned to the meeting.

* **Resolved that on the balance of probabilities, a warning letter be sent to HD1625 regarding their future conduct.**