

General Licensing Sub-Committee

Tuesday, 25 October 2011

Present: Councillor Keith Iddon (Chair) and Councillors David Dickinson, Pauline Phipps, Debra Platt and John Walker

Also in attendance: Councillors Dianne Scambler (Democratic and Member Services Officer), Bob Beeston (Public Protection Officer) and Zeynab Patel (Solicitor)

11.LSC.28 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

11.LSC.29 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS

No declarations of any interests were declared.

11.LSC.30 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the ground that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

11.LSC.31 SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS LICENCE

The Sub Committee considered a report of the Director of People and Places that sought approval to uphold the suspension of a private hire driver's licence following information received from Lancashire Constabulary regarding matters of a serious nature.

On 12 October 2011, the driver was interviewed by the Police on suspicion of grooming which he had denied and had been granted bail with conditions until 9 January 2012. The driver had been employed on school taxi contracts by Lancashire County Council and had since been suspended from those contracts. Following receipt of this information, officers had suspended the drivers Private Hire Drivers with immediate effect.

The details of the offence of grooming were outlined in the report and Members were informed that the drivers Solicitor had confirmed in writing that he would not be attending the meeting. The driver had also handed in his Private Hire Drivers Licence and badge on 24 October 2011.

The Public Protection Officer confirmed to the Sub Committee that in light of the latest information from the Police, which he explained in full at the meeting, he was changing his recommendation set out in the report for the Committee to consider revocation of the Licence.

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED that after considering all the relevant factors and in the interest of public safety to revoke the drivers Private Hire Drivers Licence on the grounds that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a Drivers Licence.**

Chair