General Licensing Committee

A meeting of General Licensing Committee was held on Tuesday 29th September 2026.

Present: Cllr Mick Moore (Vice-Chair), Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Robert Cook, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Andrew Sherris, Cllr Marilyn Surtees and Cllr Hilary Vickers

Officers: Junita Agyapong, John Devine, Polly Edwards and Natalie Hodgson.

Also in attendance: Applicant – 142804 and Private Hire Driver – 001339.

Apologies: Cllr Eileen Johnson (Chair), Cllr Marc Besford, Cllr Jason French, Cllr Elsi Hampton and Cllr Hugo Stratton

GLC/18/26 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

GLC/19/26 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

GLC/20/26 Exclusion of the Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

GLC/21/26 Private Hire Driver Application – 142804

Members were asked to consider and determine an application for a private hire driver, from applicant – 142804, who had previously been revoked by the authority and had a relevant conviction, therefore did not meet the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Private Hire Driver Applicant – 142804 had a live DVLA conviction for 'using a motor vehicle without insurance' (code IN10) and had six points on his licence.

Private hire driver applicant – 142804 attended the meeting and was given the opportunity to make representation.

Committee papers and reports had been provided to all relevant parties prior to the meeting.

The report detailed the following:

- A copy of Private hire driver – 142804's application including their DVLA check code.

- A copy of a medical assessment letter to affirm the applicant had completed the required stress test (April 2026)

- A copy of a letter from the applicant's cardiologist confirming they were now compliant with the relevant medical standards.

- A copy of the Interview transcript between the applicant and Officers.

The Chair introduced everyone present and explained the procedure to be followed during the hearing.

The Committee Members were presented with the officers' report and had the opportunity to ask questions of both the officers and private hire driver – 142804.

The main topics discussed were as follows:

Members heard from applicant – 142804 that the points on his licence were due to a misunderstanding regarding his insurance, the applicant explained that he had been using a neighbour's vehicle when his was unavailable and believed that his Comprehensive Cover Insurance enabled him to use another vehicle with the owner's permission. It was explained to him by the Police that the law had changed, and he was now required to inform his insurance if he would be using another vehicle.

Applicant -142804 told members that it had been an honest mistake on his part and would not be repeated in the future. He also stated that he believed himself to be a fit and proper person and had fully recovered from his heart attacked which had resulted in the previous suspension of his Private Hire Licence.

The Committee found applicant – 142804s explanation to be believable and agreed they believed he was a fit and proper person.

The Committee therefore determined that applicant – 142804's application should be granted, as they believed that he was a fit and proper person.

RESOLVED that applicant –142804's application for a private hire drivers' licence be granted.

GLC/22/26 Private Hire Driver – 001339

Members were asked to consider and determine the continued fitness of private hire driver – 001339, who had declared a relevant conviction and therefore did not meet the current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy.

Private hire driver - 001339 attended the meeting and was given the opportunity to make representation.

Committee papers and reports had been provided to all relevant parties prior to the meeting.

The report detailed that Private Hire Driver – 001339 had submitted a notification of Motoring Conviction, Criminal Conviction or Caution Form on 21st July 2026. A copy of which was attached to the report.

Driver – 001339 advised in the notification 20th July 2026 at Teesside Magistrates Court, he had pleaded Guilty to the offence of Benefit Fraud, obtaining Universal Credit without Declaring an Asset, and was given a 4-month custodial sentence suspended for 18 months and 200 hours unpaid work. He also had to pay back the full amount of the universal credit claim.

The main topics discussed were as follows:

Private Hire Driver – 001339 explained to members that he had not been working due to arthritis which had been badly affecting him. He stated that he had filled out the Universal Credit form and had not declared an extra property that was rented out as one of his assets. Following an interview with the Department for Work & Pensions in February 2025 Driver – 001339 was informed he would have to pay back all the money claimed through Universal Credit which he agreed to do.

Members asked Driver – 001339 if he had completed the required hours of unpaid work? And if they had paid back the required money?

Driver – 001339 confirmed that he had paid back all the money owed and completed the unpaid work hours.

Driver – 001339 stated that he still felt he was a Fit and Proper person, he stated that he had no complaints against him in his time as a driver and took the role very seriously.

Following discussion, the Committee did not believe that Private Hire Driver – 001339 was a fit and proper person to hold a private hire vehicle drivers' licence. The Committee were satisfied that Private Hire Driver – 001339 should therefore be refused.

RESOLVED that Private Hire Driver –001339's application for a private hire drivers' licence be refused for the reasons as detailed above.

Chair: .....