

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to revoke a (taxi) dual drivers licence for alleged sexual assault, non-compliance with conditions and driving a hackney carriage vehicle whilst suspended
Date of decision:	4 July 2023
Decision maker:	Head of Public Protection
Authority for delegated decision:	Economy and Environment Scheme of Delegation, item 70 (16/06/2023)
Ward:	All Wards
Consultation:	Officer Taxi Panel, including representatives from Licensing, Legal Services, Safeguarding, the Council's School Transport Team and the Police (Taxi & County Transport Badge Officer Panel held a hearing on 29 June 2023)
Decision made:	To revoke a (taxi) dual driver licence
Reasons for decision:	<p>The Panel could not be satisfied that the driver met the "fit and proper" test at the time of the hearing and in arriving at the decision, considered the following matters:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Arrest - On 5 May 2023, the driver's dual driver licence was suspended on the grounds of public safety following an allegation of sexual assault on a lone vulnerable female passenger whilst operating as a Hackney Carriage driver. 2. Lost property - Police recovered property not belonging to the driver. The driver could give no credible explanation to the Panel for the articles found within his house. 3. Vehicle cleanliness - After the arrest, the Hackney Cab vehicle was searched by the Police who found that the general state of taxi was far from satisfactory. 4. Non-compliance with conditions – The driver had a long history of non-compliance with licensing policy conditions. 5. Driving a Hackney whilst suspended - Even though the driver was advised in writing that he must not drive a taxi at any time until the 29 June 2023 Panel Hearing, whether working or whether driving privately, the driver had quite clearly driven a Hackney Carriage vehicle whilst suspended. 6. The poor response to questions from the driver at the hearing.
Equality Considerations	The decision to revoke does not discriminate, harass or victimize nor encourage conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010. It also does not unfairly impact upon anyone with a relevant protected characteristic nor hinder relations between persons sharing such a characteristic.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal:	Not applicable to the Council, other than loss of earnings to the driver. The applicant also has a right of appeal to the Magistrates Court within 21 days of the written decision being served.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	The Panel members considered the financial aspect of both the suspension and revocation for the driver, but on reflection felt that public safety took precedence over any financial loss
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed:

Date: 4 July 2023