

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the LICENSING AND PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE held in the CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON, PE29 3TN on Monday, 3 November 2025

PRESENT: Councillor M L Beuttell – Chair.

Councillors B S Banks and P A Jordan.

APOLOGIES: None.

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Sub-Committee held on 29th September 2025 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

14 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

15 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the press and public be excluded from the meeting because the business to be transacted contains exempt information relating to individuals and is subject to an obligation of confidentiality.

16 LICENSING AND PROTECTION SUB-COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

The Licensing and Protection Sub-Committee's Procedure was received and noted.

17 REVIEW OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

With the assistance of a report by the Head of Community (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) the Sub-Committee considered the case of Mr NR, which had been referred to the Licensing and Protection Sub-Committee for consideration.

Copies of documents relating to the suitability of a vehicle to be used as a Private Hire Vehicle and to the operation of a Private Hire Operator were provided to the Sub-Committee and Members were advised of the options available to them in respect of the case.

Mr NR was not present and was not represented at the hearing, but he had confirmed he was content for the hearing to proceed in his absence. Having satisfied themselves as to the validity of the communication from Mr NR, the

Sub-Committee decided to proceed with the hearing. Mr NR's comments on the case were reported to the Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee gave careful consideration to the case, the information within the report, together with the submission made by Mr NR. The Sub-Committee took into account legislative and policy provisions, the District Council's Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy, the District Council's Schedule of Conditions of Licences, the Department for Transport Licence Guidance, the Institute of Licensing Guidance on Suitability and advice from their legal representative. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that Dual Private Hire Driver's Licence D283 be revoked with immediate effect and that Private Hire Operator's Licence O183 be revoked with immediate effect for the following reasons:

- a) Mr NR is an experienced Dual Private Hire Vehicle Driver and Operator. He has held licences issued by Huntingdonshire District Council for several years.
- b) Mr NR presented his vehicle for inspection on 20 August 2025 at which time a significant defect was discovered and Mr NR's vehicle licence suspended.
- c) Mr NR's Private Hire Vehicle Licence expired on 25 August 2025.
- d) Despite this, Mr NR continued to undertake a significant number paid Private Hire Vehicle trips as disclosed by his booking records. When challenged about this, Mr NR denied fulfilling the bookings, but was unable to produce evidence that the bookings were subcontracted to safe vehicles. The Sub-Committee was satisfied that Mr NR could not produce that evidence because Mr NR had fulfilled those bookings himself in a vehicle that was not fit for purpose.
- e) The Sub-Committee were concerned that any trip during the time was, effectively, uninsured in addition to being in an unsafe vehicle.
- f) Furthermore, it came to light that Mr NR had failed to disclose speeding convictions to the Council as required.
- g) Mr NR explained these matters as lapses of judgment. This was not accepted as sufficient by the Committee.
- h) The Sub-Committee considered that the primary duty of the Council in relation to Taxi and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing is the safety of the public.
- i) The Sub-Committee felt that Mr NR's actions had placed the safety of the public in jeopardy and that, in all the circumstances, he is not a fit and proper person to hold either a Private Hire Driver's or Private Hire Operator's Licence.

Chair

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