

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Thursday 12th August, 2021 at 6.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors A Aston, M Aston, I Bevan, J Clinton, D Harley and W Sullivan.

Officers:-

S Smith – Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Directorate of Public Realm),
S Wright – Solicitor, H Mills - Democratic Services Officer and G Gray – Assistant Democratic
Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

10 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Body, B Challenor, P Drake and E Lawrence.

11 **Appointment of Substitute Members**

It was noted that Councillors A Aston, J Clinton and W Sullivan had been appointed to serve as substitutes for Councillors R Body, E Lawrence and B Challenor, respectively, for this meeting of the Committee only.

12 **Declarations of interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of any matter considered at the meeting.

13 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

14 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Resolved

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information relating to an individual(s) as defined under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

15 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr FUI**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of a private hire driver's licence issued to Mr FUI.

Mr FUI, together with his representative Mr H, was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr H made representations on behalf of Mr FUI, and in doing so explained the circumstances surrounding the offences, as set out in the report.

Mr FUI responded to questions asked by the Committee and confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to their attention.

Following a legal summary by the Solicitor, all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved

That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, in pursuance of Part II Section 61(1)(b) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr FUI, be suspended for a period of one month, due to the offences amounting to reasonable cause to show that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence.

Mr FUI was informed of his right to appeal the Committee's decision.

16 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MM**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of the private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr MM.

Mr MM had confirmed that he was unable to attend the meeting, as he was out of the country, however his son, Mr M was in attendance on his behalf.

The Solicitor informed the Committee that whilst a decision could be determined in the absence of Mr MM, this should be made cautiously, as Mr MM was not in attendance to answer questions or present his own case.

Following a legal summary by the Solicitor, all parties withdrew from the meeting.

Resolved

That consideration of the application for the review of the private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr MM be deferred to a future meeting upon Mr MM's return to the UK.

17 **Application for Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MS**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence in respect of Mr MS.

Mr MS was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offences and non-disclosure of offences, as set out in the report.

Mr MS confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which, a legal summary was provided by the Solicitor.

All parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application.

Resolved

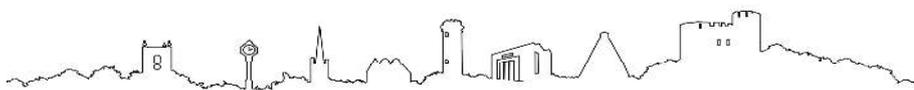
That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, in pursuance of Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence in respect of Mr MS, be refused, as the Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to be granted a private hire driver's licence, due to his previous offences and failure to disclose the offences.



Mr MS was informed of his right to appeal the Committee's decision.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm

CHAIR



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