

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Wednesday 6th July 2022 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor B Challenor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, R Body, P Lee, A Lees, J Martin, D Stanley and W Sullivan.

Officers:

N Slym – Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Directorate of Public Realm), N Bangar (Senior Solicitor) and H Mills (Democratic Services Officer)

13 **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor D Harley.

14 **Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor W Sullivan had been appointed as Substitute Member for Councillor D Harley, for this meeting of the Committee only.

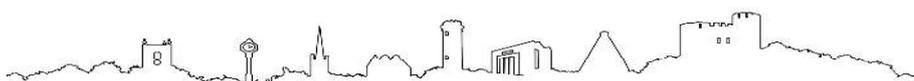
15 **Declarations of interest**

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

16 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th June, 2022, be approved as a correct record and signed.



17 **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.

18 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MM**

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

Mr MM was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr I Shafiq.

Mr Shafiq, on behalf of Mr MM, explained the circumstances surrounding the case, which had resulted in adverse information being contained in Mr MM's enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate. The Committee were advised that the matter had not been referred to a criminal court and was not classed as a caution and therefore Mr MM was not in breach of the conditions of his licence

Mr MM, through his representative, responded to questions asked by the Committee and confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

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, the Committee determined that although the offences committed were of a serious nature, Mr MM was deemed to be a fit and proper person and a warning be issued regarding his future conduct.

At this juncture, Councillor P Lee joined the meeting.

19 **Application for Grant of Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr HC**

A report of the Interim Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence on behalf of Mr HC.

Mr HC was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr A Schiller.

Mr Schiller, on behalf of his client, referred to the convictions declared by Mr HC on his application, however confirmed that these offences were so outdated that they no longer appeared on his Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate or enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate and were therefore considered as obsolete.

Mr HC confirmed there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which 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, the Committee determined Mr HC to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence and therefore a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence be granted.

20 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence - MS**

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

Mr MS was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr A Schiller.

Mr Schiller, on behalf of his client, gave a detailed explanation of the circumstances surrounding the offences highlighted in Mr MS enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate and as outlined in the report and appendices attached to the report submitted, which had all occurred a significant time in the past. It was commented that Mr MS was an experienced driver and had had a change in career since the incidents and now had a clear driving licence.

Mr MS confirmed there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which 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, the Committee determined Mr MS to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence and therefore a Private Hire Drivers Licence be granted.

21 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AM**

A report of the Interim Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a private hire driver's licence on behalf of Mr AM.

Mr AM was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr I Shafiq.

The Assistant Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) presented the report in detail and in doing so advised the Sub-Committee that Mr AM had previously held a licence with Dudley and had also previously been called in front of the Taxis Committee due to a complaint being made in respect of his conduct. Details of the complaint were outlined at the meeting.

Mr Shafiq, on behalf of Mr AM, explained the circumstances surrounding the offences highlighted on the enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate, as well as the warnings that had been declared by Mr AM on his application. It was stated that whilst Mr AM had had a change of career for a period of time, it was his desire to return to the taxis trade. It was considered that the offences referred to on his DBS had occurred when he had been a juvenile and he had since turned his life around.

Mr AM responded to all questions raised by the Committee and confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

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, the Committee determined Mr AM to be a fit and proper person to hold a licence and therefore a Private Hire Drivers Licence be granted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR