

Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Thursday 14th October, 2021 at 6.00pm

In Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Agenda - Public Session

(Meeting open to the public and press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. To report the appointment of any substitute members serving for this meeting of the Committee.
3. To receive any declarations of interest under the Members' Code of Conduct.
4. [To confirm and sign the minutes of the meetings held on 15th September, 2021 as a correct record.](#)
5. To consider any questions from Members to the Chair where two clear days notice has been given to the Monitoring Officer (Council Procedure Rule 11.8).

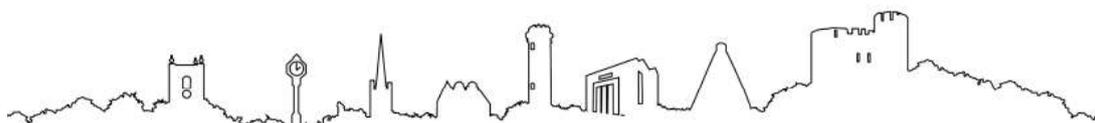
Under the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the Monitoring Officer has decided that there will be no advance disclosure of the following reports because the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption from disclosure

6. Resolution to exclude the public and press.

Chair to move:

“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 under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, for the reasons stated on the agenda.”

7. [Revocation of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MR \(Pages 1 - 4\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)



8. [Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr MM \(Pages 5 - 7\)](#) (the report contains exempt information relating to an individual)



Chief Executive

Dated: 6th October, 2021

Distribution:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)

Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)

Councillors M Aston, I Bevan, B Challenor, R Body, P Drake, D Harley, and E Lawrence

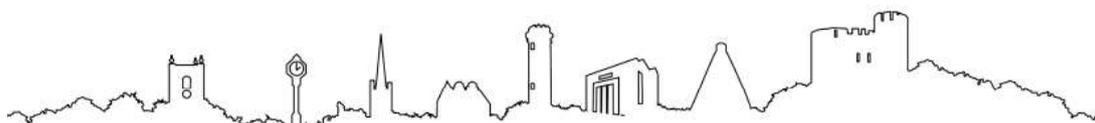
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Covid-19 Secure Working

- Windows/doors will be opened to provide adequate ventilation.
- Please ensure you sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving the building. Hand washing facilities are also available on site.
- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations.
- All persons entering or working in the Town Hall are encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas and when moving around the building.
- Please bring and use your own face masks (a supply is available in the building). Face masks may be removed when you are seated in the meeting.
- All people attending are encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests twice a week (a supply of kits is available at the Town Hall). Anyone testing positive should not attend and should seek further advice including self-isolation and taking a PCR test.
- Do not attend if you feel unwell; if you have tested positive for Covid-19; if you are self-isolating or if you suspect that you are symptomatic.
- All people are encouraged to be double vaccinated to limit any potential ill-health effects.
- Please be respectful of everyone's personal space and preferences when you attend meetings.

Toilets

- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to safety measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.



No smoking

- There is no smoking on the Council House premises in line with national legislation. It is an offence to smoke in or on the premises. You cannot use e-cigarettes and/or similar vaping devices.

In Case of Emergency

- In the event of the alarms sounding, please leave the building by the nearest exit. There are Officers who will assist you in the event of this happening, please follow their instructions.

Submitting Apologies for Absence

- Elected Members can submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (see our contact details below). Members wishing to appoint a substitute should notify Democratic Services as soon as possible in advance of the meeting. Any substitute Members must be eligible to serve on the meeting in question (for example, he/she must have received the training required by the Council).

Private and Confidential Information

- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure disposal. If you choose to retain the documents you should ensure that the information is securely stored and destroyed within six months.

General

- Public Wi-Fi is available in the Council House.
- The use of mobile devices or electronic facilities is permitted for the purposes of recording/reporting during the public session of the meeting. The use of any such devices must not disrupt the meeting – Please turn off any ringtones or set your devices to silent.
- Information about the Council and our meetings can be viewed on the website www.dudley.gov.uk

If you need advice or assistance

- If you (or anyone you know) requires assistance to access the venue, or if you have any other queries, please contact Democratic Services - Telephone 01384 815238 or E-mail Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Wednesday 15th September, 2021 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, I Bevan, R Body, B Challenor, P Drake, D Harley and E Lawrence.

Officers:-

S Smith – Team Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Directorate of Public Realm),
S Wright – Solicitor and K Taylor - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

18 **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.

19 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th August, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

20 **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.

21 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ZA**

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

22 **Application for Grant of Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr RWL**

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 RWL. Additional documentation was submitted and accepted by the Committee prior to consideration of the agenda item.

Mr RWL was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative, Mr Imran, and a supporter. Questions asked by the Committee were responded to in relation to the circumstances surrounding the refusal of his application for the renewal of his private hire driver's licence submitted to Wolverhampton City Council in November, 2020.

Mr Imran stated that Mr RWL disputed the allegations made as he could not remember the reported day or having met the complainant; that he was not working at that location at the time and that he had been experiencing extreme uncertainty and had numerous appointments in relation to his health which had caused him significant stress and anxiety. Mr RWL's conduct and positive ratings as a taxi driver was referred to.

Mr RWL 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 the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence in respect of Mr RWL, be refused, as the Committee was not satisfied that the applicant was a fit and proper person to hold a private hire driver's licence, due to his conduct whilst licensed with Wolverhampton City Council.

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

The meeting ended at 7.10pm

CHAIR

