

Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Thursday 13th January, 2022 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 meeting held on 9th December, 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).

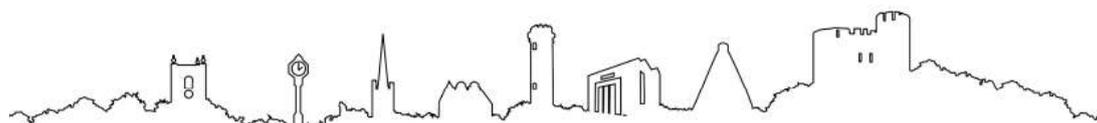
Under the provisions of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the Monitoring Officer has decided that there will be no advance disclosure of the following reports because the public interest in disclosing the information is outweighed by the public interest in maintaining the exemption 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. [Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AM \(Pages 1 - 4\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)



8. [Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA \(Pages 5 - 7\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)
9. [Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr NA \(Pages 8 - 10\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)



Chief Executive

Dated: 5th January, 2022

Distribution:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)

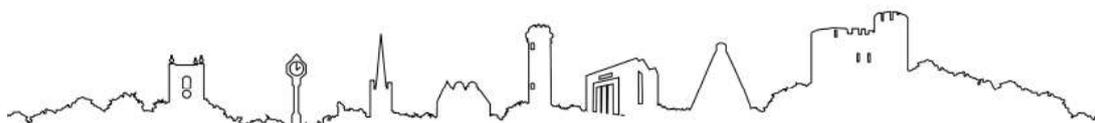
Councillor K Lewis (Vice-Chair)

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

Please note the following concerning meetings at Dudley Council House:

Covid-19 Secure Working

- Windows will be opened in meeting rooms 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 in the Council House.
- All persons entering or working in the Council House are encouraged to wear face masks in communal areas and when moving around the building.
- Please remember to bring and use your own face masks. The Council has a supply of surgical masks for use in meetings.
- Face masks may be safely removed when you are seated in the meeting if there is 2 meters of space between people and the room is well ventilated. If there is 1 meter (or less) it is advised that a surgical mask is worn.
- All people attending are encouraged to undertake Lateral Flow Tests twice a week (a supply of kits is available at the Council House). Anyone testing positive should not attend and should seek further advice including self-isolation and taking a PCR test.
- Do not attend the Council House 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 the Council House and meetings.



Public Gallery

- Seating in the public gallery is subject to limits on capacity and will be allocated on a 'first come' basis.

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).

Private and Confidential Information

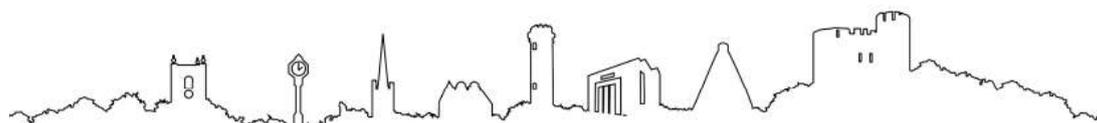
- Any agendas containing reports with 'exempt' information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that information containing private and personal data is kept safe and secure at all times. Confidential papers should be handed to Democratic Services for secure 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
Thursday 9th December, 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 R Body, B Challenor, P Drake, D Harley, E Lawrence and A Millward

Officers:

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

39. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors M
Aston and I Bevan.

40. **Appointment of Substitute**

It was reported that Councillor A Millward had been appointed as a substitute for
Councillor I Bevan, for this meeting of the Committee only.

41. **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.

42. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11th November, 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed.

43. **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.

44. **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr FS**

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

Mr FS was in attendance at the meeting.

The Committee noted that paperwork submitted was incomplete, in that the transcript from the interview attended by Mr FS, together with statements and supporting evidence from West Midlands Police had been omitted. Therefore, following advice from the Solicitor, and to ensure the Committee had all the relevant information available to them to conduct a fair hearing, the Committee determined that the application be deferred to a future meeting of the Committee.

Resolved

That, consideration of the application for the review of a private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr FS, be deferred to a future meeting to allow all relevant information to be submitted and considered.

45. **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NGSA**

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

Mr NGSA was in attendance at the meeting and explained the circumstances surrounding the incident reported whilst undertaking his duties as a private hire driver, as set out in the report and as observed in the video footage presented at the meeting.

Mr NGSA 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.



The Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the review.

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) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee determined that Mr NGSA was a fit and proper person to continue to be a private hire driver, however it was further determined that he receive a written warning as to his future conduct whilst undertaking his duties as a private hire driver.

46. **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr KA**

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

Mr KA was in attendance at the meeting.

Mr KA outlined the circumstances surrounding the offence, which had been reported to the Licensing Office within the necessary timeframe in accordance with Condition 2 of the hackney carriage driver's licence and Condition 12 of the private hire driver's licence, as outlined in the report. Mr KA 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.

The Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case, following which all parties withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the review.

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) and (2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence issued to Mr KA, be suspended for a period of one month, due to the offence amounting to reasonable cause to show that he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence, taking into account the remorse shown for his misconduct and in view of his good driving record over a twenty year period.

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



47. **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NI**

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 on behalf of Mr NI.

Mr NI was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the offence endorsed on his Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) mandate, as set out in the report submitted.

Mr NI 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 with Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee determined that Mr NI was a fit and proper person and a private hire driver's licence be granted.

The meeting ended at 7.25 pm.

CHAIR

