

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It was noted that this item had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.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

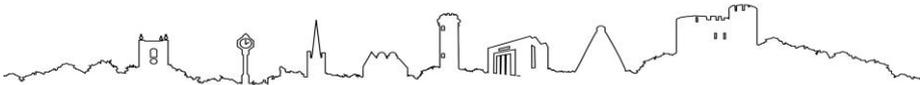
That, following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, the evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, in pursuance of Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the application 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



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