

## Meeting of the Taxis Committee

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2021 at 6.00pm

In the Council Chamber 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 7<sup>th</sup> June, 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. [Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr IA \(Pages 1 - 3\) \(the report contains exempt information relating to an individual\)](#)





**Chief Executive**

**Dated: 29<sup>th</sup> June, 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

**Please note the following concerning meetings at Dudley Council House:**

**Covid-19 Secure Working**

**Hands**

- Hand sanitiser and antibacterial wipes are available at various locations in the Council House. Please ensure you sanitise your hands when arriving and leaving the building. Hand washing facilities are also available on site.

**Face**

- All persons entering or working in the Council House must wear face masks when moving around the building. Please remember to bring and use your own face masks. Face masks may be safely removed when you are seated in the meeting.

**Space**

- Seating in the meeting rooms is arranged to allow for safe distancing. You must only use the designated seating. Remember to maintain safe distancing at all times during your visit.
- Seating in the public gallery is currently restricted and will be allocated on a 'first come' basis.
- All persons must observe the signage in place throughout the Council House to ensure safety.

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- 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.
- You are advised to undertake a lateral flow test 48 hours before attending. If the test is positive, do not attend the meeting.

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- Toilet facilities are available on site and are subject to the Covid-19 secure measures that are in place. All the toilets have hand washing facilities.



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- 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](http://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](mailto:Democratic.Services@dudley.gov.uk)



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee  
Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2021 at 6.00 pm  
in the Council Chamber, Council House, Dudley**

**Present:**

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

**Officers:-**

B Hughes – Assistant Team Manager - (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) (Directorate of Public Realm), S Wright – Solicitor, L Jury - Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

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1 **Apology for absence**

An apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor R Body.

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2 **Declaration 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.

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3 **Minutes**

In referring to minute no. 73 – Application for a Grant of a Private Hire Driver’s Licence – Mr MAZ, it was requested that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

‘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 11 Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the application for a grant of a Private Hire Driver’s Licence to Mr MAZ, be refused, in view of the offence and failing to disclose the offence, and as such he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence.’

In referring to minute no. 74 – Application for a Grant of a Private Hire Driver’s Licence – Mr QK, it was requested that the resolution be amended to read as follows:

‘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 11 Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the application for a grant of a Private Hire Driver’s Licence to Mr QK, be refused, in light of Mr QK’s failure to acknowledge the circumstances of the allegation and his failure to address changes in his attitude, and as such he was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence’.

#### **Resolved**

That, subject to the amendments referred to above, the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2021, be approved as a correct record and signed.

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#### **4 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.

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#### **5 Grant of a Private Hire Driver’s Licence – Mr AQ**

A report of the Acting Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the grant of a private hire driver’s licence to Mr AQ.

Mr AQ was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to his failure to declare the conviction that had been highlighted in his Disclosure Barring Service check.

The Committee were informed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to their attention.

Following a legal summary by the Solicitor, all parties then 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 Statutory Guidance and Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Committee found Mr AQ was a fit and proper person. The Committee, therefore resolved that, in pursuance of Section 51 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a private hire driver's licence be granted to Mr AQ.

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The meeting ended at 6.35pm

CHAIR