

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee
Thursday 28th May, 2020 at 2.00 pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillors H Bills, R Body, B Challenor, J Cowell and C Neale

Officers:-

H Marsh-Geyton – Head of Fleet and Waste Care, 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)

8 **Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Aston, E Lawrence and K Lewis.

9 **Declarations of Interest**

No Member made a declaration of interest in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct.

10 **Exclusion of the Public**

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 any individual(s) as defined under Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.

11 **Review of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr FH**

A report of the Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr FH.

Mr FH was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative, Mr MN.

Following the presentation of the report by the Licensing Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement), Mr MN attempted to make representations on behalf of Mr FH. However during the presentation a number of technical difficulties were experienced that restricted the audio to enable Mr FH to present his case sufficiently.

Therefore, following discussion and agreement with all parties it was

Resolved

That, owing to technical difficulties the review of the hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr FH be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

12 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr ML**

A report of the Director of Public Realm was submitted to consider the review of the private hire and hackney carriage driver's licence issued to Mr ML.

Mr ML was in attendance at the meeting together with his representative, Mr IS, and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offence as set out in the report. Mr IS stated that Mr ML had been driving for twenty-two years with no issues or complaints

Following further discussion, Mr ML advised the Committee that there were no matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

Following a legal summary by the Solicitor, Mr ML was informed that the decision by the Committee would be communicated to him by telephone and a letter outlining the decision made would be posted within fourteen days. 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, and as reported at the meeting, the Committee considered that Mr ML was a fit and proper person and would receive a strong warning as to his future conduct.

13 **Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MKG**



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

Mr MKG was in attendance at the meeting and responded to questions asked by the Committee in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offences, and his failure to declare any convictions on his application form as set out in the report.

At this juncture, the Licensing Manager (Licensing and Waste Enforcement) informed the Committee that taxi driver application forms would be reviewed to ensure that the applicant declared all offences where they had been convicted by a Criminal Court, or cautioned for any offence, including those that had been imposed outside of the United Kingdom.

Following further discussion, Mr MKG advised the Committee that there were no matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

Following a legal summary by the Solicitor, Mr MKG was informed that the decision by the Committee would be communicated to him by telephone and a letter outlining the decision made would be posted within fourteen days. 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, and as reported at the meeting, the Committee considered that Mr MKG was a fit and proper person and accepted the explanation provided during the hearing in relation to the offences and non-disclosure of convictions on his application form and therefore, no action be taken at this time.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm

CHAIR