



**Minutes of the meeting of the Taxis Committee
Monday 7th August, 2023 at 6.00 pm
At Saltwells Education Development Centre,
Bowling Green Road, Netherton, Dudley**

Present:

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)
Councillor B Challenor (Vice-Chair)
Councillors M Aston, K Denning, D Harley, W Little, J Martin, and A Taylor.

Officers:

N Slym (Assistant Team Manager), (Licensing and Waste Enforcement),
S Ahmed-Aziz (Solicitor) and K Buckle (Democratic Services Officer)

26 Apologies for Absence

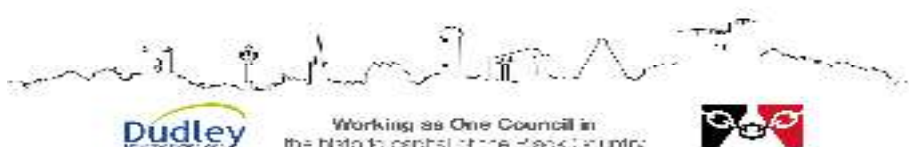
No apologies for absence were received for this meeting of the Committee.

27 Appointment of Substitute Members

No appointment of substitute Members were appointed for this meeting of the Committee.

28 Declaration of interest

No Member made a declaration of interest, in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, in respect of any matters to be considered at the meeting.



29 **Minutes**

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd July 2023, be approved as a correct record and signed.

30 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

There were no questions to the Chair pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 11.8.

31 **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.

32 **Application for Grant of Exemptions on a Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Mr IM**

A report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery was submitted to consider the application for grant of Exemptions on a Private Hire Vehicle Licence to Mr IM

Mr IM was in attendance at the meeting together Ms SB, a Director of the Private Hire Company concerned.

Mr IM confirmed that he agreed with the summary of the case as outlined by the Assistant Team Manager and Mr IM and Ms SB responded to questions raised by Members.

Ms SB confirmed that it would not be detrimental or have a negative impact on the business should the exemption not be granted but requested that the application be considered further, as the exemption was required.

Ms SB confirmed that she was aware that the private hire identity plate would need to be displayed inside the vehicle, should the application be approved.

The Committee's 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 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 relevant legislation and the Department for Transport Best Practice for Licensing Authority Consultation 2022, the application of Mr IM for the grant of exemptions on the private hire vehicle licence be refused, as there were no exceptional circumstances or sufficient justification to grant the application.

33 Application for Grant of Exemptions on a Private Hire Vehicle Licence – Mr RH

A report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery was submitted to consider the application for grant of Exemptions on a Private Hire Vehicle Licence to Mr RH

Mr RH was in attendance at the meeting and responded to Members' questions stating that the vehicle in question was a high-end executive chauffeur driven vehicle, and there was no signage on the vehicle.

In relation to the impact on the business should the application be refused Mr RH stated that as part of the executive business that involved transporting passengers who did not wish it to be known that a vehicle was being operating on behalf of the Local Authority. It was a question of discretion and anonymity for the cliental that he was attempting to attract and should the application not be granted there would be a detrimental impact upon the business.

The Committee's 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 application.

Resolved

That the application for the grant of exemptions on a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr RH be approved, as having regard to the relevant legislation and the Department for Transport 2022 Best Practice for Licensing Authority Consultation 2022 there were exceptional circumstances for justification to exempt the vehicle.

34 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AJ**

A report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr AJ.

Mr AJ was in attendance at the meeting together with his Solicitor Mr AS, who made detailed representations on behalf of his client in relation to the information contained in the report submitted.

An enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service certificate was circulated to Members at the meeting together with references provided on behalf of Mr AJ.

Mr AJ and his Solicitor also responded to Members questions.

The Committee's 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 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 Standards, the Committee determined that Mr AJ was a fit and proper person therefore the Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr AJ be granted.

35 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr SUF**

A report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr SUF.

Mr SUF was not in attendance at the meeting. The Assistant Team Manager informed the Committee that he had received written confirmation that Mr SUF was currently out of the Country and had requested an adjournment of the application.

Following further discussion, it was: -

Resolved

That this item of business be deferred to a future meeting.

36 **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ZD**

A report of the Acting Service Director – Neighbourhood Delivery was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire driver's licence to Mr ZD.

Mr ZD was in attendance at the meeting and responded to Members questions in relation to the circumstances surrounding the offences committed contained in paragraph 6 to the report submitted.

Mr ZD confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention.

The Committee's 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 application.

At this juncture, the Committee reconvened and after a short discussion, all parties returned to the meeting, at which clarification was sought from the Assistant Team Manager in relation to the Totting up procedure referred to at paragraph 4 of the report submitted.

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 and Statutory Standards, the Committee determined that Mr ZD was not a fit and proper person to hold a licence considering the number of strong written warnings as to future conduct that Mr ZD had received.

Mr ZD was advised of his right to appeal the decision.

The meeting ended at 7.45pm

CHAIR