

## **Meeting of the Taxis Committee**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2024 at 6.00pm**  
**in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Priory Road,**  
**Dudley, West Midlands, DY1 1HF**

### **Agenda**

**(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 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 and 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024, as correct records (pages 5-18)
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).
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.”

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.

7. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AT (pages 19-22). The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
8. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr AA (pages 23-28). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
9. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AA (pages 29-43). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
10. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr FS (pages 44-48). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
11. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence - Mr MSZR (pages 49-52). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
12. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MI (pages 53-56). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).
13. Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr RMA (pages 57-85). (The report contains exempt information relating to an individual).



**Chief Executive**  
**21<sup>st</sup> June, 2024**

**Distribution:**

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)

Councillor B Challenor (Vice-Chair)

Councillors A Ahmed, M Cook, J Cowell, D Harley, L Hamblett, A Taylor and J Thorne.

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- There is no smoking on the 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.

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**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**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)  
Councillor B Challenor (Vice -Chair)  
Councillors A Ahmed, M Cook, J Cowell, L Hamblett, D Harley, A Taylor and J Thorne.

**Officers:**

S Smith (Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement),  
S Ahmed-Aziz (Solicitor) and H Mills (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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**1 Comments by the Chair**

This being the first meeting of the municipal year, the Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and those present introduced themselves.

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**2 Apologies for Absence**

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

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**3 Appointment of Substitute Member**

There were no substitutes appointed to serve for this meeting of the Committee.

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**4 Declarations of interest**

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

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5 **Minutes**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024, be approved as a correct record, and signed.

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6 **Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

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

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7 **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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8 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr HI**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr HI.

Mr HI was in attendance at the meeting.

Following the welcome and introductions by the Chair, the Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail. Mr HI confirmed that the report was a fair summary, however he provided evidence in the form of an email to prove that no charges had been pursued by West Midlands Police in relation to the allegations referred to in the additional information provided as part of Mr HI's Disclosure and Barring Service report.

Mr HI continued to present his case, explaining the circumstances surrounding the allegations, together with his current living arrangements and health conditions.

Mr HI responded to questions raised by the Committee, and the Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement confirmed that Mr HI had undertaken a full medical in April 2023, and had been signed fit by a medical practitioner with a further medical required in three years.

At the request of the Chair, Mr HI confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which, the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case.

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, in particular Statutory Standard 5.4, the Committee determined that whilst no criminal convictions had been issued, due to the serious nature of the allegations, the Committee were not convinced Mr HI was a fit and proper person, therefore the application to grant a Private Hire Driver's licence to Mr HI be refused.

Mr HI was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrate's Court.

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## **9     Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr NA**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr NA.

Mr NA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr Saeed.

Following the welcome and introductions by the Chair, the Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail. Mr NA confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case, and Mr Saeed explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions highlighted on Mr NA's Disclosure and Barring Service report and the reasons as to why these had not been disclosed at the time of submitting his application.

Mr NA responded to questions of the Committee and 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 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 were satisfied that Mr NA was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided, therefore, subject to Mr NA undertaking a drugs test, at his own expense, and providing a negative result, a private hire driver's licence, be granted.

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#### **10     Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr UDK**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr UDK.

Mr UDK was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr Saeed.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr Saeed on behalf of the applicant presented the circumstances surrounding the failure to disclose on his application that he had previously held a private hire drivers' licence with a neighbouring authority, which had subsequently been revoked.

Following the opportunity to sum up the case and Mr UDK confirming 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.

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 were satisfied that Mr UDK was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided, therefore, the private hire driver's licence application for Mr UDK, be granted.

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## **11 Change in order of business**

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 1(c), it was:

### **Resolved**

That the order of business be varied, and the agenda items be considered in the order set out in the minutes below.

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## **12 Review of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MA**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the review of a Private Hire Driver's licence issued to Mr MA.

Mr MA was in attendance at the meeting.

Following the presentation of the report, Mr MA confirmed that a fair summary of the case had been presented and continued to explain the circumstances surrounding the conviction which had been declared within the required 7-day period.

Mr MA confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then 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, evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee's Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, the Committee were of the view that in accordance with Section 61(1)(b) and Section 61(2A) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Act 1976, the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr MA be suspended for a period of one month.

Mr MA was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrates' Court.

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13    **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MH**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MH.

Mr MH was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MH confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case.

Mr MH explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the Disclosure and Barring Service report and disclosed by Mr MH on his application submitted.

Mr MH confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee the opportunity 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 were satisfied that Mr MH was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided, therefore, the private hire driver's licence application for Mr MH, be granted.

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14 **Review of a Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence – Mr LA**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the review of the Private Hire Driver's Licence issued to Mr LA.

Mr LA was in attendance at the meeting, together with his representative Mr IS.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr IS on behalf of the applicant confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case and advised that Mr LA was extremely remorseful for failing to declare the points endorsed on his DVLA licence within the required 7 days, which had resulted in a breach of Condition 12 on his Private Hire Driver's Licence.

Mr IS continued to explain the circumstances surrounding the conviction and for the failure to disclose within the required period.

Mr LA confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee opportunity 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 were satisfied that Mr LA was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided, therefore, a strong written warning be issued to Mr LA regarding his future conduct.

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The meeting ended at 8.05pm.

CHAIR

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Taxis Committee  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 2 at the Council House, Dudley**

**Present:**

Councillor A Hopwood (Chair)  
Councillor B Challenor (Vice -Chair)  
Councillors A Ahmed, M Cook, J Cowell, K Denning, D Harley, A Taylor and J Thorne.

**Officers:**

N Slym (Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement),  
S Wright (Solicitor) and K Taylor (Senior Democratic Services Officer)

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**15 Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor L Hamblett.

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**16 Appointment of Substitute Member**

It was reported that Councillor K Denning had been appointed to serve as substitute Member for Councillor L Hamblett for this meeting of the Committee only.

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**17 Declarations of interest**

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

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**18 Questions Under Council Procedure Rule 11.8**

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

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19 **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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20 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr AAR**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr AAR.

Mr AAR was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr AAR confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case. It was noted that Mr AAR had appeared previously before the Taxis Committee on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2015 for the grant of a private hire driver's licence which was refused due to Mr AAR's convictions.

Mr AAR explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) report and disclosed by Mr AAR on his application submitted.

Mr AAR further confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

**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 were satisfied that Mr AAR was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr AAR's convictions, therefore, subject to Mr AAR undertaking a drugs test, at his own expense, and providing a negative result, a private hire driver's licence be granted.

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21 **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr KK**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr KK.

Mr KK was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr KK confirmed that the report was a fair summary of the case. It was noted that Mr KK had appeared previously before the Taxis Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 for the grant of a private hire driver's licence which was refused.

Mr KK explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr KK on his application submitted. It was noted that Mr KK's current Driver and Vehicle Licence Agency (DVLA) licence was endorsed with 10 penalty points.

Mr KK further confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

**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, whilst the Committee acknowledged that time had lapsed for a number of Mr KK's convictions they were numerous also, Mr KK's DVLA licence had been recently endorsed with 10 penalty points for failure to provide a specimen for analysis in circumstances other than driving or attempting to drive. In light of this, the Committee did not consider Mr KK to be a fit and proper person, therefore the application for grant of a private hire driver's licence to Mr KK be refused.

Mr KK was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrates Court.

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22    **Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MN**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MN.

Mr MN was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MN advised the Committee that he no longer wished to proceed with his application and requested that the matter be withdrawn.

Following a request made by Mr MN regarding a refund, the Assistant Team Manager – Licensing and Waste Enforcement advised the Committee that the administration for the application process had been completed and that Mr MN had undertaken the necessary assessments, and would discuss the matter further with Mr MN following the meeting.

Following further discussion, it was

**Resolved**

That the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MN be withdrawn.

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23    **Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MR**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for grant of a Private Hire Driver's licence to Mr MR.

Mr MR was in attendance at the meeting.

The Assistant Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MR confirmed that a fair summary of the case had been presented and explained the circumstances surrounding the conviction, which was outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr MR on his application submitted.

Mr MR confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to enable the Committee to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

### **Resolved**

That following careful consideration of the information contained in the report submitted, evidence provided at the meeting and having regard to the Committee's Guidelines and Statutory Guidance, the Committee were satisfied that Mr MR was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr MR's conviction, therefore, the private hire driver's licence to Mr MR be granted.

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## **24     Application for the Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr MH**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr MH.

Mr MH was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr MH explained the circumstances surrounding the conviction which was outlined on the DBS report and disclosed by Mr MH on his application submitted.

Mr MH confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the Committee's attention and the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee the opportunity to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

## **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 were satisfied that Mr MH was a fit and proper person to hold a licence given the explanation provided and the significant time that had lapsed since Mr MH's conviction, therefore, the private hire driver's licence to Mr MH be granted.

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### **25    Application for Grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence – Mr ZW**

A report of the Director of Environment was submitted to consider the application for the grant of a Private Hire Driver's Licence to Mr ZW.

Mr ZW was in attendance at the meeting.

The Team Manager - Licensing and Waste Enforcement presented the report in detail, following which Mr ZW confirmed that a fair summary of the case had been presented. It was noted that Mr ZW had declared one offence on his application form and not the associated convictions which were imposed at court on the same date.

Mr ZW explained the circumstances surrounding the convictions which were outlined on the DBS report and DVLA licence mandate.

Mr ZW confirmed that there were no further matters pending that needed to be brought to the committee's attention, following which the Committee's Solicitor provided a legal summary in relation to the case.

All parties then withdrew from the meeting to allow the Committee opportunity to determine the application. Having made their decision, the meeting was reconvened, and the Chair outlined the decision.

## **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 in view of the previous convictions and the explanation provided and Mr ZW's failure to declare all of the offences on his application form, they did not consider Mr ZW to be a fit and proper person, therefore the application to grant a private hire driver's licence to Mr ZW, be refused.

Mr ZW was informed of his right to appeal the decision of the Committee to the Magistrate's Court.

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The meeting ended at 8.01pm.

CHAIR