

## LICENSING SUB COMMITTEE - 15 February 2023

### PRIVATE MINUTES

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY OR CONFLICTING INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

There were no declarations of pecuniary or conflicting interest from Members.

**3. QUESTIONS AND DEPUTATIONS**

No questions or deputations received.

**4. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Chairman did declare that the press and public be now excluded from the remainder of the business to be transacted on the grounds that there would be exempt information as defined in the Local Government Act 1972.

**5. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE**

Members confirmed they had read the committee papers and listened to verbal representations from the applicant and his niece.

Mr Hussain confirmed he had been drinking on the occasion he was involved in a car accident and admitted that he had failed to provide a specimen for analysis. It also transpired that he had failed to disclose he was also licensed by Wolverhampton City Council when applying for a licence with Solihull.

Members heard detailed representations as regards the applicant's personal circumstances and financial burdens. They also heard about good character references which they did not doubt.

Mr Hussain was reminded of the Council's suitability policy, in particular that drivers with drink driving related convictions would usually be refused a licence unless there were very exceptional circumstances to depart from policy.

**RESOLVED**

Members followed the officer recommendation, that Mr Hussain was not a fit and proper person to be granted a private hire driver's licence on this occasion, as they felt there was no compelling reason to depart from the suitability policy.

Mr Hussain was advised as to his appeal rights.

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### 6. APPLICATION FOR A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE.

Members confirmed they had read the committee papers and listened to the verbal representation of the applicant.

Mr Khalid confirmed he declared the six penalty points on his DVLA driving licence, his licence revocation by Wolverhampton City Council, and confirmed the incident in April 2016 which resulted in him being issued with a child abduction warning notice as well as a child sexual exploitation disruption notice. He was listed as a perpetrator of child sexual exploitation until May 2022.

Members gave appropriate and fair weight to each incident, particularly the perverting the course of justice investigation, six penalty points and the fact that Wolverhampton City Council had revoked his private hire licence in April 2022.

Mr Khalid confirmed to Members that he would not allow his child to sit in a licensed vehicle if another driver had similar history e.g. child sexual exploitation register and potential dishonesty.

### RESOLVED

Members carefully considered Mr Khalid's explanations as well as the committee report and suitability policy. On balance they felt that he was not a fit and proper person to be granted a private hire driver's licence due to his driving history, revocation by Wolverhampton City Council and the incident involving child sexual exploitation.

Mr Khalid was advised as to his appeal rights.

Councillor Hamilton was not in attendance at the commencement of the application and took no part in the debate or decision process.