

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Subject: KNOWLEDGE TEST FAILURE**  
**Meeting: CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**Date: 20 APRIL 2016**  
**Author: CHIEF GOVERNANCE OFFICER**

**1. APPLICATIONS FOR THE GRANT OF A NEW TAXI DRIVER LICENCE**

- 1.1 Ms Kerry Paris submitted an application for a new taxi driver on 4 December 2015. Her application must be considered before 3 June 2016. The applicant sat the knowledge test on 7 January 2016 and attained 34%. She sat the test on 21 January and attained 68%. The applicant was invited to sit the test on 4 February and attained 73%. The applicant was afforded a fourth opportunity by officers to sit and pass the knowledge test on 18 February, however she attained 72%
- 1.2 It is the view of officers that the applicant has little prospect of passing the knowledge test and would recommend that the Committee consider refusing the application on the basis that the applicant has not sat and passed the knowledge test.
- 1.3 Mr Russell McCallum submitted an application for a new taxi driver licence on 14 December 2015. His application must be considered before 14 June 2016. The applicant was invited to attend for the test on 7 January 2016 and failed to attend and did not advise that he was unavailable. The applicant was invited to sit the test on 21 January 2016 and attained 16%. Further tests were arranged for 4 and 18 February and the applicant failed to attend and did not advise that he was unavailable.
- 1.4 It is the view of officers that the applicant has little prospect of passing the knowledge test and would recommend that the Committee consider refusing the application on the basis that the applicant has not sat and passed the knowledge test.
- 1.5 The applicants have not been invited to sit a medical as yet.
- 1.6 Ms Paris and Mr McCallum were both notified of their failures and opportunities to attend and that the matter will be considered by the Committee. The letter explained that they could submit a letter in support of their applications which would form part of the report. No letters have been received.

## 2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Members consider the terms of the report.

The options available to the Members are:-

### 2.1

- (a) to refuse to grant the TAXI DRIVER licences in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 13 (5) on the grounds that the applicants, having failed to pass the knowledge test, have failed to satisfy the Authority that they had adequate knowledge of the area to which the licence relates and the layout of roads in the area; or
- (b) if Members are satisfied that there are other relevant circumstances that warrant a departure from policy, to instruct officers to arrange for the applicants to undertake a medical; and should they fail the medical to remit the matter back to Committee for consideration; should the applicant pass the medical, to authorise the Chief Governance Officer to grant the TAXI DRIVER licences.

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Chief Governance Officer  
Date: 12 April 2016

Contact Officer: Bryan Douglas, Licensing Co-ordinator (telephone 501262)

### LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None