

DRAFT

Minute of meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Wednesday 11 January 2017 at 9.30 a.m.

Councillors: Paul Garner

Gordon Hughes Baillie Joan Paterson

Depute Provost John Patrick Provost Pat Reid (Convener)

Sandy Turner

<u>Officers</u>: Bryan Douglas, Licensing Co-ordinator

Arlene Fraser, Committee Services Officer Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer

Frances Kobiela, Senior Solicitor

Brian Samson, Licensing Enforcement Officer

CL97. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Baillie Buchanan and Councillor Ritchie.

CL98. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were intimated.

CL99. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held on 30 November 2016 was approved.

CL100. List of Applications Granted under Delegated Powers in November 2016 and Notifications of Public Processions Pending

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer detailing (a) applications granted under delegated powers between 1 and 30 November 2016 in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, and (b) notifications of pending public processions.

Decision

The committee noted the report.

CL101. Civic Licensing Enforcement – November 2016

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer giving an overview of enforcement action taken with regard to Civic Licensing activities during November 2016.

Decision

The committee noted the report.

CL102. Knowledge Test Failure

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer detailing (a) the background to the applicant's application and his knowledge test results, and (b) the options available to members.

Decision

The committee agreed to refuse the taxi driver licences in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, s.13(5) on the grounds that the applicant, Mr C Little, having failed to pass the knowledge test, has failed to satisfy the Authority that he had adequate knowledge of the area to which the licence relates and the layout of the roads in the area.

CL103. Exclusion of Public

RESOLVED in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the meeting the press and public for the following items of business on the ground that they would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

CL104. Application for the Grant of a New Taxi Operator Licence

Mr S, an employee of the applicant company, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application received for the grant of a new taxi operator licence (a) advising on the background to the application; (b) summarising the consultations undertaken and responses received; (c) detailing the applicants' record, and (d) referring to a letter of objection to the application.

The objector was not in attendance.

Having heard from the Convener, the letter of objection was circulated to members.

Mr S was heard in response to the issues raised in the objection and in clarification of questions raised by members.

Mr S then spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to grant the new taxi operator licence for a period of one year, subject to the standard conditions.

Councillor Garner joined the meeting after consideration of previous item.

CL105. Application for Notice of Exemption from Carrying a Guide Dog, a Hearing Dog or an Assistance Dog

The applicant, Mr R and Mr J, a representative of Central Scotland Equality Council, both entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application received from the licence holder requesting a notice of exemption from the requirement to carry guide dogs, hearing dogs or assistance dogs in his taxi.

The report set out the background to the application and the implications of the Taxi Drivers' Licences (Carrying a Guide Dogs and Hearing Dogs) (Scotland) Regulations 2003, and attaching as appendices, a letter and an email from the applicant's GP, outlining his medical condition.

Mr R spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed:-

- (1) to grant a notice of exemption from the requirement to carry a guide dog, a hearing dog or an assistance dog, which notice will extend for the period of the licence until the licence expires, and
- (2) that officers contact the applicant's GP to clarify the extent of his phobia.

CL106. Application for the Variation of a Private Hire Car Operator Licence

The applicant, Mr A, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the variation of a private hire car operator licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and responses received, and (c) attaching as an appendix, a written request by the applicant to vary the licence conditions No 8 and No 14 to allow the signs to be of a magnetic type that are removable, and the reasons why he wishes to use removable signs.

Mr A spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to the variation of conditions 8 and 14 to allow the signs referred to, to be magnetic signs of similar size and design supplied by the Licensing authority and paid for by the applicant. The applicant will be excused the duty to display the signs when the vehicle is not undertaking private hire car activities but the signs must be kept within the vehicle at all times.

CL107. Application for the Variation of a Private Hire Car Operator Licence

The applicant, Mr K, was not in attendance.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the variation of a private hire car operator licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and responses received, and (c) attaching as an appendix, a written request by the applicant to vary the licence conditions No 8 and No 14 to allow the signs to be of a magnetic type that are removable, and the reasons why he wishes to use removable signs.

Decision

The committee agreed to the variation of conditions 8 and 14 to allow the signs referred to, to be magnetic signs of similar size and design supplied by the Licensing authority and paid for by the applicant. The applicant will be excused the duty to display the signs when the vehicle is not undertaking private hire car activities but the signs must be kept within the vehicle at all times.

CL108. Application for the Variation of a Private Hire Car Operator Licence

The applicant, Mr R, was not in attendance.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the variation of a private hire car operator licence (a) advising of the background to the application; (b) detailing the consultations undertaken and responses received, and (c) attaching as an appendix, a written request by the applicant to vary the licence conditions No 8 and No 14 to allow the signs to be of a magnetic type that are removable, and the reasons why he wishes to use removable signs.

Decision

The committee agreed to the variation of conditions 8 and 14 to allow the signs referred to, to be magnetic signs of similar size and design supplied by the Licensing authority and paid for by the applicant. The applicant will be excused the duty to display the signs when the vehicle is not undertaking private hire car activities but the signs must be kept within the vehicle at all times.

Baillie Paterson joined the meeting after consideration of the previous item.

CL109. Urgent Item – Suspension Hearing

Provost Reid advised that, in terms of Standing Order 9.1, he had **AGREED** to accept an urgent item, namely "Suspension Hearing in relation to Private Hire Car Driver Licence No.487". This item had been accepted to allow committee to consider the options available within the prescribed time period.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer summarising the background to the immediate suspension on 22 December 2016 of the holder of private hire car driver licence No.487.

The licence holder had been cited to attend but was not in attendance.

Sergeant M White, Police Scotland and the manager of the local MPs constituency office entered the meeting and were advised that the licence holder was not in attendance.

Decision

The committee agreed to continue the matter to a special meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee to allow the licence holder to be in attendance.