

The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the City of Vancouver's coat of arms. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a city skyline with a bridge. The top-right quadrant depicts a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a three-masted sailing ship on the water. The bottom-right quadrant features a grizzly bear standing on its hind legs. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. A banner at the bottom contains the motto "A NE FOR A".

Agenda Item

3

Minute

Minute of meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Wednesday 30 November 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

Councillors:

Jim Blackwood
Paul Garner
Gordon Hughes
Baillie Joan Paterson
Depute Provost John Patrick
Provost Pat Reid (Convener)
Sandy Turner

Officers:

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

CL84. Apologies

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

CL85. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were intimated.

CL86. Minute

Decision

The minute of the meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held on 2 November 2016 was approved.

CL87. List of Applications Granted under Delegated Powers in October 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 31 October 2016 in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, and (b) notifications of pending public processions.

Decision

The committee noted the report.

CL88. Civic Licensing Enforcement – October 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 October 2016.

Decision

The committee noted the report.

CL89. Knowledge Test Arrangements for Prospective Taxi Drivers

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer (a) summarising the Council's current taxi knowledge test arrangements, and (b) detailing the results of a benchmarking exercise undertaken with other local authorities to ascertain what, if any, method of testing taxi drivers was in place.

The Council's current knowledge test format was aimed at measuring applicants' understanding of their responsibilities in operating a taxi and their knowledge of the Falkirk area and had been introduced in 1994. The knowledge test format had not been reviewed however the questions had been revised to include new visitor attractions and new housing developments.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report, and**
- (2) agreed that officers review the current test content and format and submit an update report to a future meeting.**

CL90. Falkirk Council Taxi and Private Hire Car Composition

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer (a) summarising the Council's taxi and private hire car fleet composition; (b) detailing the Council's policy in relation to vehicle specification which has created 3 distinct taxi operator categories, namely (i) pre 1998 taxi operators who can operate saloon cars; (ii) 2002-2013 taxi operators who operate wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs), and (iii) 2013 onwards who operate WAVs, hybrid or electric; (c) setting out details of the number of taxi and private hire cars licenced by Scottish Local Authorities, which also included the number of wheelchair accessible vehicles, and (d) referring to the

Council's duty to comply with the public sector duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report, and**
- (2) agreed that officers undertake further investigations to ensure that the Council is meeting its duty under the Equality Act 2010 and submit an update report to a future meeting.**

CL91. 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.

CL92. Application for the Variation of a Private Hire Car Operator Licence

The applicant, Mr C, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the variation of private hire car operator licence No.050.

Mr C spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

Having been satisfied that there was justification to depart from its policy, the committee agreed to grant the variation of private hire car operator licence No.050.

CL93. Application for the Grant of a New Taxi Driver Licence

The applicant, Ms M and her agent Ms W, entered the meeting.

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

The applicant's agent was heard in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to instruct officers to arrange for the applicant to undertake a medical; and should she 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 licence, subject to the standard conditions.

CL94. Application for the Grant of a New Private Hire Car Driver Licence

The applicant, Mr C, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the grant of a new private hire car driver licence (a) advising on the background to the application; (b) summarising the consultations undertaken and responses received, and (c) detailing the applicant's record.

A letter, supporting the application had been received from the applicant's agent. Copies of the letter were circulated to members for their consideration.

Mr C spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to grant the private hire car driver licence, subject to the standard conditions.

CL95. Application for the Renewal of a Taxi Driver Licence

The applicant, Mr S, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the renewal of a taxi driver licence (a) advising on the background to the application; (b) summarising the consultations undertaken and responses received, and (c) detailing the applicant's record.

Mr S spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to renew the taxi driver licence for a period of one year, subject to the standard conditions.

CL96. Application for the Renewal of a Taxi Driver Licence

The applicant, Mr D, entered the meeting.

The committee considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer on an application for the renewal of a taxi driver licence (a) advising on the background to the application; (b) referring to the meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee held on 16 March 2016, and (c) summarising the consultations undertaken and responses received.

Mr D spoke in support of the application.

Questions were then asked by members of the committee.

Decision

The committee agreed to renew the taxi driver licence for a period of one year, subject to the standard conditions.