

The background of the slide features a large, light blue crest of the University of Alberta. The crest is a shield divided into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant shows a cross with a chevron. The top-right quadrant shows a stag's head with antlers. The bottom-left quadrant shows a sailing ship on wavy lines. The bottom-right quadrant shows a beaver. Above the shield is a crown with four maple leaves. Below the shield is a banner with the motto 'ANNE FOR A'.

Agenda Item 5

Knowledge Test Failures

Falkirk Council

Subject: Knowledge test failures
Meeting: Civic Licensing Committee
Date: 10 April 2019
Author: Chief Governance Officer

1. Applications for the grant of a new taxi driver licence

Mr Ahmed

- 1.1 Mr Ahmed submitted an application for a new taxi driver licence on 14 September 2018. His application must be considered before 13 June 2019. The applicant has failed to pass the knowledge test despite 4 attempts.
- 1.2 Mr Ahmed was invited to sit the test on 4 October 2018 and he attained 69%. He was then invited on 18 October 2018 and attained 80%.
- 1.3 Mr Ahmed was invited to sit the test on 8 November 2018 and due to illness was unable to attend. He was then invited to attend on 19 December and he attained 65%. He was then invited to attend on 9 and 29 January and did not attend. Another opportunity to sit and pass the knowledge test was arranged for 1 March 2019 and he attained 72%.
- 1.4 It is the view of officers that the applicant has little prospect in passing the knowledge test and would recommend that the Committee consider refusing the application on the basis that she has not passed the knowledge test.
- 1.5 The applicant has not been invited to sit a medical as yet.
- 1.6 Mr Ahmed was notified in a letter of his failure to pass the knowledge test and that the matter would be considered by the Committee. The letter explained he could submit a letter in support of his application which would form part of this report. At the time of preparing this report no letter has been received

Mr Findlater

- 1.7 Mr Findlater submitted an application for a new taxi driver licence on 16 October 2018. His application must be considered before 15 July 2019. The applicant has failed to pass the knowledge test despite 4 attempts.

- 1.8 Mr Findlater was invited to sit the test on 1 November 2018 and attained 64%. He thereafter attended on 26 November and attained 68%. Mr Findlater was then invited to attend on 8 January 2019 but did not attend.
- 1.9 Mr Findlater was then invited to sit the test on 13 February 2019 and attained 75%. Another opportunity to sit and pass the knowledge test was arranged for 27 February 2019 and he attained 76%.
- 1.10 It is the view of officers that the applicant has little prospect in passing the knowledge test and would recommend that the Committee consider refusing the application on the basis that he has not passed the knowledge test.
- 1.11 The applicant has not been invited to sit a medical as yet.
- 1.12 Mr Findlater was notified in a letter of his failure to pass the knowledge test and that the matter would be considered by the Committee. The letter explained he could submit a letter in support of her application which would form part of this report. Mr Findlater subsequently submitted a letter in support of his application. Copies will be available for circulation at the meeting.

Mr Atkinson

- 1.13 Mr Atkinson submitted an application for a new taxi driver licence on 2 November 2018. His application must be considered before 1 August 2019. The applicant has failed to pass the knowledge test despite 1 attempt.
- 1.14 Mr Atkinson was invited to sit the test on 22 November 2018 and he attained 55%. He was then invited on 6 December 2018 and advised that he was unable to attend.
- 1.15 Mr Atkinson was invited to sit the test on 10 January 2019 and advised he was unable to attend.
- 1.16 Mr Atkinson was then invited to attend on 31 January, 14 and 28 February 2019 and failed to attend on each occasion.
- 1.17 It is the view of officers that the applicant has little prospect in passing the knowledge test and would recommend that the Committee consider refusing the application on the basis that he has not passed the knowledge test.
- 1.18 The applicant has not been invited to sit a medical as yet.
- 1.19 Mr Atkinson was notified in a letter of his failure to pass the knowledge test and that the matter would be considered by the Committee. The letter explained he could submit a letter in support of his application which would form part of this report. At the time of preparing this report no letter has 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 ground 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; the layout of roads in the area and of the Council's licence conditions; or**
- (b) to give the applicants a final opportunity to take and pass the knowledge test, and should the applicants fail the knowledge test, to authorise the Chief Governance Officer to refuse the applications without further reference to Committee in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, Section 13 (5) on the ground 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; the layout of roads in the area and of the Council's licence conditions;**
- (c) 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: 1 April 2019

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

None