

Minute

Licensing Committee

Thursday, 10 October 2019, 11:00.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Duncan A Tullock, Barbara Foulkes, Alexander G Cowie, Norman R Craigie, Robin W Crichton, J Harvey Johnston and Owen Tierney.

Clerk

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.

Apology

- Councillor Steven B Heddle.

Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Item 1.

Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

1. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles – Taxis and Private Hire Cars

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a non-financial interest in this item, being the holder of a private hire car driver's licence, but concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Legal Services, the Committee:

Noted:

1.1. That a consultation process, to identify any unmet need in relation to wheelchair accessible vehicles licensed as taxis or private hire cars, was undertaken during the period 11 April to 24 May 2019 inclusive, with the outcome detailed in section 5 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

1.2. The options in respect of considering what action to take with regard to wheelchair access to licensed taxis and private hire cars, as detailed in section 9 of the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, with the preferred option being Option 4, namely to engage with and encourage operators to deploy increased numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in their taxi and private hire car fleet without introducing formal requirements and encourage operators to advertise their wheelchair accessible vehicles more.

Councillor Robin W Crichton, seconded by Councillor Alexander G Cowie, moved that Option 2, namely that the Council should move towards formal requirements for a proportion of wheelchair accessible vehicles in either the licensed taxi fleet or both the taxi and the private hire car fleet and approve and adopt standard conditions to be developed, be approved.

Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, moved an amendment that Option 4, namely that the Council should encourage operators to deploy increased numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in their taxi and private hire car fleets and to advertise their wheelchair accessible vehicles more without introducing formal requirements, be approved.

On a vote being taken 4 members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion, and the Committee:

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

1.3. That the Council should encourage operators to deploy increased numbers of wheelchair accessible vehicles in their taxi and private hire car fleets and to advertise their wheelchair accessible vehicles more without introducing formal requirements.

1.4. That the policy position, referred to at paragraph 1.3 above, be continuously reviewed over the following three years, with the Executive Director of Corporate Services submitting a report, to a meeting of the Committee no later than 2023, detailing the outcome of the review and, if necessary, recommending amendments to the policy.

2. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:28 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.