

## Minute

### Licensing Committee

Thursday, 4 March 2021, 11:00.

Microsoft Teams.



### Present

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

### Clerk

- Angela Kingston, Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- Paul Turner, Acting Environmental Health Manager.
- Georgette Herd, Solicitor.
- Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.

### Police Scotland:

- Sergeant Martin Arbuckle.

### Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Item 2.

### Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

## 1. Form of Voting

The Committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll (recorded vote).

## 2. Review of Licensing Fees

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a financial interest in this item, being the holder of a taxi driver's licence, with close family members also holding both taxi drivers' and private hire licences, and was not present during discussion thereof.

After consideration of a joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Solicitor, the Committee:

Noted:

**2.1.** That, on 23 February 2021, when considering the revenue budget for 2021/22, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that Executive Directors should review and increase existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2021, if possible to do so, or as early as possible thereafter, with exceptions, where alternative arrangements were required.

**2.2.** That the exceptions to increasing existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2021, included licensing fees.

**2.3.** That a comparison of fees charged by the Council with fees charged for similar types of licences or approvals by other local authorities in the north of Scotland had been undertaken, with the outcome detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

**2.4.** The proposal that, where the Council had discretion, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3% with effect from 1 April 2021, in accordance with the guidance outlined in section 4 of the joint report by the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.5.** That, where the Council had discretion, with effect from 1 April 2021, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3%, resulting in the fee levels, attached as Appendix 1 to this Minute.

### **3. Review of Fares and Charges**

#### **Taxi Services on Mainland Area of Orkney**

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Solicitor, the Committee:

Noted:

**3.1.** That, on 1 December 2020, the Committee resolved that new scales proposed by taxi operators for maximum fares and charges from 1 May 2021 for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, be approved for public consultation.

**3.2.** That the statutory consultation process was undertaken during the period 7 January to 8 February 2021, when the public were requested to submit representations in respect of the proposed scales, referred to at paragraph 3.1 above.

**3.3.** That no representations were received from the public.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**3.4.** That the new scales, for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, be approved.

**3.5.** That the scales, referred to at paragraph 3.4 above, should take effect from 1 May 2021.

#### **4. Taxi Stances – Broad Street and Castle Street, Kirkwall**

After consideration of a report by the Chief Executive, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Solicitor, the Committee:

Noted:

**4.1.** That, on 1 December 2020, the Committee resolved to consult on the following:

- Revocation of the appointment of a taxi stance for three vehicles on Broad Street, Kirkwall.
- Appointment of a taxi stance for three vehicles on Castle Street, Kirkwall.

**4.2.** That the statutory consultation and notification process was undertaken during the period 10 December 2020 to 4 February 2021, when taxi operators, Police Scotland, the Roads Authority and the public were requested to submit representations in respect of the proposals, referred to at paragraph 4.1 above.

**4.3.** That one representation was received from taxi operators, as detailed in section 4.3 of the report by the Chief Executive.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**4.4.** That the appointment of a taxi stance for three vehicles on Broad Street, Kirkwall, be revoked.

**4.5.** That a taxi stance for three vehicles on Castle Street, Kirkwall, be appointed.

#### **5. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 11:24 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.