

Minute

Licensing Committee

Thursday, 5 December 2019, 11:15.

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.

Police Scotland:

- Sergeant Andy MacDonald.

Apology

- Councillor Steven B Heddle.

Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Items 2 and 3.

Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 3, as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

2. Review of Fares and Charges

Taxi Services on Mainland Area of Orkney

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a non-financial interest in this item, being the holder of a taxi driver's licence and 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:

2.1. The current scales for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, effective from 1 May 2019, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

2.2. That a statutory consultation process with taxi operators was undertaken during the period 27 August to 11 October 2019, when operators were requested to submit comments or suggestions in respect of the current scales, referred to at paragraph 2.1 above.

2.3. That one representation was received from operators, attached as Appendix 2 to the report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services.

2.4. That the licensing authority was required, at intervals not exceeding 18 months, to propose new scales, whether at altered rates or the same rates.

2.5. That the proposals required to be advertised to allow the public a period of at least one month to submit representations.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

2.6. That the new scales, which were the same as the current scales for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services, referred to at paragraph 2.1 above, be approved for public consultation.

2.7. That the Executive Director of Corporate Services should submit a report, to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 March 2020, on the outcome of the public consultation, referred to at paragraph 2.6 above, together with proposed scales for the maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, to be effective from 1 May 2020.

3. Taxi Driver's Licence

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

On the motion of Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

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

Resolved, in terms of delegated powers, what action should be taken with regard to a taxi driver's licence.

The above constitutes the summary of the Minute in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 section 50C(2) as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

4. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:33 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.