

## Minute

### Licensing Committee

Thursday, 5 March 2020, 10:30.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



### Present

Councillors Duncan A Tullock, Barbara Foulkes, Alexander G Cowie, Robin W Crichton, Steven B Heddle, 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.
- David Brown, Environmental Health Manager.
- Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.

### Police Scotland:

- Sergeant Richard Morris.

### Apology

- Councillor Norman R Craigie.

### Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Items 1 and 2.

### Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

## 1. Review of Licensing Fees

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

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

Noted:

**1.1.** That, on 25 February 2020, when considering the revenue budget for 2020 to 2021, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that Executive Directors should review and increase existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2020, if possible to do so, or as early as possible thereafter, with exceptions, where alternative arrangements were required.

**1.2.** That the exceptions to increasing existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2020, included licensing fees.

**1.3.** 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 Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

**1.4.** The proposal that, where the Council had discretion, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3% with effect from 1 April 2020, in accordance with the guidance outlined in section 4 of the joint report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**1.5.** That, where the Council had discretion, with effect from 1 April 2020, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3%, resulting in the fee levels detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute.

## **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, 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.** That, on 5 December 2019, the Committee resolved that the proposed scales for maximum fares and charges from 1 May 2020 for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, which were the same as the current scales, be approved for public consultation.

**2.2.** That the statutory consultation process was undertaken during the period 9 January to 10 February 2020, when the public were requested to submit representations in respect of the proposed scales, referred to above.

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

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.4.** 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, which were the same as the current scales, be approved.

**2.5.** That the scales, referred to above, should take effect from 1 May 2020.

### **3. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 10:36 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.