

**GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 21 SEPTEMBER 2022**

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**General Purposes Board**

**Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 3pm**

**Present:** Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, Moran, McCluskey, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson.

**Chair:** Councillor Moran presided.

**In attendance:** Ms A Sinclair and Mr D Keenan (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Ms F Denver and Ms E Peacock (Legal & Democratic Services), Mr C Brown (Civic Enforcement Officer) and Sergeant F Moore-McGrath (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie, Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Curley, Moran, Quinn, Robertson, Wilson and Councillors Crowther, Daisley and McCluskey attending by video-conference.

**The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.**

**427      Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest      427**

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Armstrong and Reynolds, with Councillor Daisley substituting on behalf of Councillor Armstrong, and Councillor Robertson substituting on behalf of Councillor Reynolds.

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

The Chair advised Members that he proposed to consider the public items 2, 3 and 7 to which all Members agreed.

**428      The Installation and Operation of Cameras within Taxis/Private Hire Vehicles      428**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to ask the Board to note the terms of the report regarding recent calls from the taxi trade for the installation of CCTV within taxis/private hire vehicles and to seek authority for the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to commence a consultation on the terms of a draft policy in order to ascertain the level of support for such a policy.

There followed discussions between Members and Officers on the requirement for such a policy and the consultation process, after which Councillor Moran moved to accept the details of the report and agreed all recommendations contained therein, as an amendment Councillor Curley moved that consultation on the draft policy should include members of the public.

Following a roll call vote, 4 Members (Councillors Moran, McKenzie, Quinn and Wilson) voted for the motion, and 7 Members (Councillors Brennan, Cassidy, Crowther, Curley, Daisley, McCluskey and Robertson) voted for the amendment which was declared carried.

**Decided:**

- (1) that the terms of the report be noted;
- (2) that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to commence a

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consultation to include taxi/private hire operators and members of the public on a draft policy to determine the levels of support and record any concerns relative to adopting such a policy, and

(3) that Officers be instructed to provide a further report to the Board at the culmination of the said consultation.

**429 Licensing of Short-Term Lets/Consideration of Draft STL Policy Statement**

**429**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services to update Members on the outcome of the public consultation exercise in relation to the licensing of Short-Term Lets (STLs) in Inverclyde and to request that the Board considers the responses received to the consultation and to approve the draft STL policy statement to be adopted with effect from 1 October 2022.

Miss Sinclair advised Members on the new licensing regime for Short-Term Lets and provided a summary of the policy whilst highlighting important sections for consideration. Following discussions, Councillor Moran moved to accept the recommendations as outlined in the report, as an amendment Councillor Wilson moved to continue the consideration to a further meeting and request that a representative from Fire and Rescue, Police and Public Protection Officers, as consultees attend the meeting.

Following a roll call vote, 3 Members voted for the motion (Councillors Brennan, Curley and Moran) and 8 Members for the amendment (Councillors Cassidy, Crowther, Daisley, McCluskey, McKenzie, Quinn, Robertson and Wilson) which was declared carried.

**Decided:** that consideration be continued to a further meeting to be held prior to 1 October 2022.

**430 Licensed Vehicle Tinted Windows**

**430**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Service – Roads & Transportation, requesting Members to note the terms of the report regarding a recent request from the taxi trade for an amendment to the Licensed Vehicle Inspection manual which was approved and adopted by the Board on 11 September 2013 in relation to the specification required in Section K(i) of the manual regarding the level of light required through tinted windscreen and other windows in licensed public and private hire vehicles. There followed discussions between Members and Officers, Councillor Moran moved to agree all recommendations as stated in the report which was unanimously agreed.

**Decided:**

(1) that the terms of the report be noted;

(2) that the Head of Legal & Democratic Services be authorised to consult with Police Scotland, the taxi trade and the public, if appropriate, to determine the level of support for relaxing the standards set out in Section K(i) of the Council's Licensed Vehicle Inspection manual and determine what alternative standard should apply, and

(3) that Officers be instructed to provide a further report to the Board at the culmination of the said consultation.

**It was agreed in terms of Sections 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.**

**431 Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence**

**431**

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the Appendix.

**432 Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence****432**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on an application for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was continued, all as detailed in the Appendix.

**433 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence****433**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence which was granted, all as detailed in the Appendix.