

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 9 NOVEMBER 2022

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 9 November 2022 at 3pm

Present: Provost McKenzie, Councillors Armstrong, Brennan, Crowther, Curley, Moran, McCluskey, Quinn, Reynolds and Wilson.

Chair: Councillor Moran presided.

In attendance: Mr D Keenan (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services), Legal Services Manager (Litigation, Licensing and Committee Services), Ms F Denver and Ms E Peacock (Legal & Democratic Services), and Mr C Brown (Civic Enforcement Officer, Public Protection).

In attendance also: Sergeant F Moore-McGrath (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Councillors Curley and Wilson attending by video-conference.

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

518 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 518

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Cassidy.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

519 HMRC Tax Conditionality 519

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising of amendments being introduced to the Finance Act 2021 by the Finance Bill 2022 which will oblige licensing bodies in Scotland to comply with additional HMRC tax conditionality obligations in relation to certain types of civic licence applications from 1 April 2023.

Decided: that the regulations being introduced which will oblige the Council to comply with additional HMRC tax conditionality obligations in relation to the processing of applications for taxi/private hire drivers, taxi/private hire operators, taxi/private hire booking offices, licences to deal in scrap metal on a fixed site and licences to carry on business as an itinerant metal dealer from 1 April 2023 be noted.

520 Taxi Fares Review 2022/23 520

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising the Board of the commencement of the statutory review of the Council's Taxi Fare Scale and Charges which includes requesting the views from representatives of the taxi trade.

Decided:

- (1) that the commencement of the Council's statutory review of Taxi Fare Scale and Changes be noted; and
- (2) it be noted that a report will be submitted to the Board for consideration in January 2023 with a provisional view on such a review following representation of the taxi trade.

It was agreed in terms of Section 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 item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

521 Application for Renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence

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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 refused, all as detailed in the Appendix.