

**GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 FEBRUARY 2023**

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**General Purposes Board**

**Wednesday 8 February 2023 at 3pm**

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

**Chair:** Councillor Moran presided.

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

**In attendance also:** Sergeant I Robertson (Police Scotland).

The meeting was held at the Municipal Buildings, Greenock with Provost McKenzie and Councillors McCluskey and Reynolds attending by video-conference.

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

**79 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 79**

An apology for absence was intimated by Councillor Wilson.

No declarations of interest were intimated, but a certain connection was intimated for the purposes of transparency as follows:

Agenda Item 6 (Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver Licence) – Councillor Curley

**80 Taxi Fares Review 2022/23 80**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider the annual review of the taxi fare scales for the purposes of public advertisement as the first formal stage of the statutory process and following consultation with all Taxi Operators, including the Operators Liaison Group and other members of the trade.

Mr Keenan advised that this item would be considered at a further meeting of the Board to permit senior officer attendance.

**Decided:** that (a) consideration of the annual review of the taxi fare scales at a further meeting of the Board be noted, and (b) the further meeting be arranged by the Head of Legal & Democratic Service in consultation with the Chair.

**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.**

**81 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence 81**

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

## GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 FEBRUARY 2023

the Appendix.

**82 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver’s Licence 82**

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 refused, all as detailed in the Appendix.

**83 Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver’s Licence 83**

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 refused, all as detailed in the Appendix. Councillor Curley declared a connection in this item, all as detailed in the Appendix.

**84 Application for Grant of a Taxi Licence 84**

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

Following consideration of these items of business, the Board returned to public session.

**85 Update Regarding HMRC Tax Conditionality 85**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services advising of changes to the HMRC timetable for the implementation of HMRC tax conditionality obligations in relation to certain types of civic licence applications, including taxi/private hire drivers, taxi/private hire operators, taxi/private hire booking offices and licences to deal in scrap metal.

**Decided:** that it be noted that the implementation of the tax conditionality obligations upon licensing bodies, including the Council, will now take effect on 1 October 2023.

**86 Report by the Independent Working Group on Public Processions in Scotland 86**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services appending the Scottish Government’s ‘Report of the Short Life Working Group on Processions in Scotland’ for noting.

**Decided:** that the contents and outcome of the Scottish Government’s ‘Report of the Short Life Working Group on Processions in Scotland’, as summarised at paragraphs 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 of the report, be noted.