General Purposes Board

Wednesday 11 September 2013 at 3.00 pm

Present: Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Dorrian, Jones, Loughran, McColgan, McIlwee, Rebecchi and Shepherd.

Chair: Councillor Dorrian presided.

In attendance: Mr F Jarvie, (for Head of Legal & Democratic Services) and Inspector S Adams, Police Scotland.

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

562 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Grieve with Councillor Shepherd substituting.

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

563 Taxi Fares Review 2013

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to determine the taxi fare scales and charges following the annual review.

Mr Moffat, Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and Mr Bradley (Environmental & Commercial Services) were in attendance. Mr Glasgow was present representing Inverclyde Taxis Limited, ABC Taxis (Inverclyde) Limited and Operators Liaison Group.

The Board heard Mr Moffat and Mr Bradley in respect of Environmental & Commercial Services submissions generally and illustration 1 and illustration 2 in particular. The Board heard Mr Glasgow in support of the trade.

After a discussion, Councillor Campbell-Sturgess moved increase in fares and scales as per Environmental & Commercial Services illustration 1. As an amendment, Councillor Brennan moved increase in fares and scales as per Environmental & Commercial Services illustration 2. On a vote, 2 Members voted for the motion and 9 voted for the amendment which was declared carried.

Councillor Ahlfeld moved that 2 January should be moved from tariff 3 to tariff 4. On a vote, 2 Members opposed and 9 Members voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Councillor Ahlfeld commented on other aspects of the trades letter which they wished to be considered. The Clerk advised that work was ongoing in relation to these matters and will be subject to a report in due course.

Decided:

(i) a 3.5% to 5% increase be implemented across all 4 tariffs to be achieved by reduction in yardage, as per Environmental & Commercial Services illustration 2 of

appendix 2;

- (ii) 2 January be moved from tariff 3 and inserted in tariff 4; and
- (iii) remit to Head of Legal & Democratic Services to arrange for public advertisement of proposals as the first formal stage of the statutory process.

564 Licensed Vehicle Inspection Manuals

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There was submitted a report by the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services requesting the Board to consider:-

- (i) introduction of a licensed vehicle inspection manual;
- (ii) introduction of a partial re-test fee for vehicles which have failed on items which require a limited amount of time to re-test; and
- (iii) vehicle specification for Multi Access Vehicles be amended to allow N1 type approved vehicles with appropriate Single Vehicle Approval in addition to the M1 type approved vehicles currently permitted.

Mr Moffat, Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and Mr Bradley (Environmental & Commercial Services) were in attendance.

The Board heard Mr Moffat and Mr Bradley in terms of the report and answered Members questions.

Decided:

- (i) the Licensed Vehicle Inspection Manual including re-test criteria and inspection list be adopted and introduced from Monday 4 November 2013;
- (ii) a reduced partial re-test fee be introduced to be used as per the re-test criteria outlined in the Licensed Vehicle Inspection Manual. The re-test fee should be set at £20.00; and
- (iii) N1 (designed and constructed for the carriage of goods) Whole European Type Approved Vehicles should also be licensed if the vehicles are presented with a suitable type approval document for its conversion to a passenger carrying vehicle.

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 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.

565 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence - John McLaughlan

565

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr McLaughlan following a Police objection.

Mr McLaughlan was present with his agent Mr A Gallagher, Aiden Gallagher & Company.

The Board heard Inspector Adams in support of the Police objection and Mr Gallagher and Mr McLaughlan in support of the application.

Decided: the application be continued to the next meeting of the Board.

566 Consideration of Taxi Driver's Licence - Alan Robertson

566

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting

the Board to consider the suspension of Mr Robertson's Taxi Driver's Licence which expires on 31 October 2013.

Mr Robertson was present.

Mr Jarvie advised the Board that this item had been continued from a previous meeting to allow for further information to be received.

The Board heard Inspector Adams in support of the Police letter dated 12 March 2013.

Mr Robertson submitted a letter from his own GP which was circulated to Members. The Board heard Mr Robertson in support of his licence.

Decided: to continue consideration to next meeting to allow for confirmation of medical report and further documentation to be submitted.

567 Consideration of Taxi Driver's Licence - Adeel Khan

567

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Khan following a Police objection.

Mr Khan was not present or represented.

The Board heard Inspector Adams in support of the Police objection.

Decided: the application be refused.

568 Application for General Hire Taxi Operator Licence Plate 41 - Joseph Swan

568

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services on the renewal of a General Hire Taxi Operator Licence 41 by Mr Swan following a Police representation.

Mr Gallagher, Aiden Gallagher & Company was present representing the applicant, Mr Swan was not present.

The Board heard Inspector Adams in support of the Police representation and Mr Gallagher in support of the applicant.

Decided: the application be granted.

569 Request for Suspension of Taxi Driver's Licence - James Devenny

569

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Democratic Services requesting the Board to consider the suspension of Mr Devenny's Taxi Driver's Licence which expires on 31 May 2014.

Mr Devenny was not present or represented.

Mr Jarvie advised the Board that following receipt of a letter dated 30 July 2013 from Police Scotland Mr Devenny's Taxi Driver's Licence had been immediately suspended on 2 August 2013 and requested the Board to uphold the decision of suspension and to consider whether or not the suspension is continued.

The Board heard Inspector Adams in support of Police Scotland recommendations.

Decided:

- (a) to uphold the immediate suspension; and
 (b) to continue the suspension for the unexpired portion of his licence to 31 May 2014.