
Report To:	General Purposes Board	Date:	8 October 2014
Report By:	Head of Legal and Property Services	Report No:	LP/047/14
Contact Officer:	Diane Sweeney Legal Services	Contact No:	01475 712107
Subject:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 Application for Multi-Access General Hire Taxi Licences Devonhill (x2)		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider two applications submitted by Devonhill Ltd on 2 May 2014 for Taxi Licences which would make available to the public vehicles specially adapted for use by the disabled.
- 1.2 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 these applications require to be decided upon within six months of the date of the application. Therefore a decision requires to be made no later than 2 November 2014.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 There are no objections from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland to the application.
- 2.2 The Board may wish to note that the Council currently issues twenty licences with the compulsory condition that a wheelchair accessible vehicle is operational on the licence. At the point of preparing this report there are 19 vehicles operating under those licences. The remaining one licence holder must have a vehicle operational by 21 October 2014 in accordance with the three month time restriction on having a vehicle operational on the licence, as previously approved by the Board.
- 2.3 The applicant was given the opportunity in terms of the Act to make representations in writing, but to date no response has been received.
- 2.4 The applicant has also been advised that he may be present or represented at this meeting to be heard in support of his application should the Board decide to hear him.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Board are asked to decide whether or not they wish to hear Devonhill Ltd in support of their applications.
- 3.2 The Board are asked to determine the application and consider whether or not to grant licences to Devonhill Ltd.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Previous applications for specially adapted vehicles have been refused on the basis that there was no evidence of an unmet demand for wheelchair accessible vehicles operated as taxis.
- 4.2 At its meeting on 8 April 2009 the Board authorised the Head of Legal and Administration to issue tenders for a taxi demand survey. The purpose of the report was to examine the extent to which the demand for taxis, both general taxis and taxis adapted for the disabled, is currently being met. Following a tendering exercise the contract was awarded to Fraser of Allander Institute. The Institute carried out a survey of demand and its report was considered by the Board on 11 November 2009.
- 4.3 The conclusion of the report was that there was no unmet demand for taxis and this was noted. The Board decided it would have regard to that report in considering applications for Taxi Licences.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 There are no financial implications

Legal

- 5.2 There are no legal implications

Human Resources

- 5.3 There are no Human Resources implications.

Equalities

- 5.4 There are no equalities implications.

Repopulation

- 5.5 There are no repopulation implications.