

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 OCTOBER 2014

General Purposes Board**Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 3.00pm**

Present: Provost Moran, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Brooks, Campbell-Sturgess, Dorrian, Grieve, Jones, Loughran, McIlwee and Rebecchi.

Chair: Councillor Dorrian presided.

In attendance: Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Property Services) and Chief Inspector S Wright and Inspector G Kirkwood, Police Scotland.

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

579 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 579

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McColgan with Provost Moran substituting on his behalf.

There were no declarations of interest intimated.

580 Taxi Fares Review 2014 580

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services requesting the Board to determine the taxi fare scales and charges following the statutory consultation exercise.

Mr Douglas advised Members that no objections or representations had been received and if the Board agree to the increase, it is proposed to take effect from Sunday 23 November 2014.

Decided: remit to the Head of Legal & Property Services to implement the increase in taxi fare scales and charges with effect from 23 November 2014.

581 Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Application for Multi-Access General Hire Licences – Devonhill (x2) 581

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services to consider two applications by Devonhill Ltd for Multi- Access General Hire Taxi Licences.

Mr McEntegart, Solicitor was present representing the applicant.

Mr Douglas advised the Board on the background of the applications.

Mr McEntegart sought the Board's views on a preliminary point prior to proceeding with consideration of the applications.

Mr Douglas advised that the documentation Mr McEntegart referred to related to a previously granted licence and he would require sight of the documentation relating thereto before making any comments.

The Board agreed to recall this item at the end of the meeting in order to obtain the relevant information.

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- 582 Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Application for Multi-Access General Hire Licences – Glenaden Ltd (x3) 582**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services to consider three applications by Glenaden Ltd for Multi- Access General Hire Taxi Licences. Mr McEntegart, Solicitor was present representing the applicant. Mr Douglas advised the Board on the background of the applications. Mr McEntegart sought the Board's views on a preliminary point prior to proceeding with consideration of the applications. Mr Douglas advised that the documentation Mr McEntegart referred to related to a previously granted licence and he would require sight of the documentation relating thereto before making any comments. The Board agreed to recall this item at the end of the meeting in order to obtain the relevant information.
- 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.**
- 583 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Sharon Robertson 583**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Ms Robertson following a Police representation. Ms Robertson was not present or represented, but had lodged a letter of representation. The Board heard Chief Inspector Wright in support of the Police representation. Following discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.
Decided: the application be granted.
- 584 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Robert Hotchkiss 584**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Hotchkiss following a Police representation. Mr Hotchkiss was not present or represented. Mr Douglas advised the application was placed on the Agenda of the meeting on 13 August 2014 and Members asked for Mr Hotchkiss to be in attendance. The Board heard Chief Inspector Wright in support of the Police representation. Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.
Decided: the application be granted.
- 585 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Gordon Clark 585**
- There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Clark following a Police objection. Mr Clark was present. Mr Douglas advised the Board on the background of the report and intimated that a letter dated 30 September 2014 had been submitted for the Board's consideration by Mr Clark's Solicitors. The letter was circulated to Members. The Board heard Chief Inspector Wright in support of the Police objection and Mr Clark in support of his application.

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Following discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Decided: the application be refused.

586 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Joseph Duffy 586

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Duffy following a Police representation.

Mr Duffy was not present or represented.

The Board heard Chief Inspector Wright in support of the Police representation.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Decided: the application be refused.

587 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Linda Cochrane 587

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Ms Cochrane following a Police objection.

Ms Cochrane was present with her representative Mr D Simpson.

The Board heard Chief Inspector Wright in support of the Police objection and Mr Simpson and Ms Cochrane in support of the application.

Following discussion, Councillor Campbell-Sturgess moved refusal of the application, as an amendment Councillor Brooks moved grant of the application. On a vote, three Members voted for the motion, and seven Members for the amendment which was declared carried.

Decided: the application be granted.

588 Application for Renewal of Late Hours Catering Licence – Mr Farooq Arbab 588
Premises: Real Spiced Village, 63 Princes Street, Port Glasgow

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for the renewal of a Late Hours Catering Licence by Mr Arbab for premises at Real Spiced Village, 63 Princes Street, Port Glasgow following a public objection.

Mr Maciver, Solicitor was present representing the applicant. The objector was not present or represented.

Mr Douglas advised the Board on the background of the report and intimated that a letter dated 24 September 2014 had been submitted for the Board's consideration by the applicant's Solicitor. The letter was circulated to Members.

The Board heard Mr Maciver in support of the applicant.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.

Decided: the application be granted.

589 Wheelchair Safety Training for Multi-Access Vehicle Taxi Drivers and Disclosure 589
Scotland Screening for new Taxi Drivers

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services at the request of Councillor Rebecchi asking the Board to consider implementing the following proposals:-

- (i) Taxi drivers of multi-access vehicles undertake wheelchair safety training from an appropriate training provider; and
- (ii) Taxi drivers to have 'Disclosure Scotland' screening when applying for a new grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence.

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The Board heard Councillor Rebecchi on each subject and there followed a discussion on each proposal.

Decided:

- (i) remit to the Head of Legal & Property Services to provide a detailed report to a future meeting of the Board on wheelchair safety training; and
- (ii) remit to the Head of Legal & Property Services to provide a detailed report on additional 'Disclosure Scotland' checks within the current application process.

There followed a short recess to allow the Depute Clerk to view additional documentation in relation to the following recalled items.

590 Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Application for Multi-Access General Hire Licences – Devonhill (x2) 590

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services to consider two applications by Devonhill Ltd for Multi- Access General Hire Taxi Licences.

Mr McEntegart, Solicitor was present representing the applicant.

Mr Douglas updated the Board on the preliminary issue previously raised and advised that these type of licences are restricted in number and no licence is available at present.

The Board heard Mr McEntegart in support of the applications and clarified his client is aware these type of licences are restricted in number. However, it was the applicant's position that a previously issued licence had reverted to the Council, and accordingly there was a licence available for issue.

Decided: the applications be refused.

591 Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Application for Multi-Access General Hire Licences – Glenaden Ltd (x3) 591

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services to consider three applications by Glenaden Ltd for Multi- Access General Hire Taxi Licences.

Mr McEntegart, Solicitor was present representing the applicant.

Mr Douglas updated the Board on the preliminary issue previously raised and advised that these type of licences are restricted in number and no licence is available at present.

The Board heard Mr McEntegart in support of the applications and clarified his client is aware these type of licences are restricted in number. However, it was the applicant's position that a previously issued licence had reverted to the Council, and accordingly there was a licence available for issue. He requested Members to consider the two applications submitted on 2 May 2014 together and made a motion to continue consideration of the application submitted on 1 August 2014.

Decided:

- (i) the two applications submitted on 2 May 2014 be refused; and
- (ii) continue consideration of the application submitted on 1 August 2014 to a further meeting of the Board.

Mr McEntegart requested a Statement of Reasons on these two items.

Mr Douglas noted the request.