

GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 8 APRIL 2015

General Purposes BoardWednesday 8 April 2015 at 3.00pm

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

Chair: Councillor Dorrian presided.

In attendance: Mr J Douglas (for Head of Legal & Property Services) and Inspector G Kirkwood, Inspector D Kane and Sergeant G Fitzpatrick, Police Scotland.

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

245 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest 245

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Grieve. There were no substitutions or declarations of interest intimated.

246 Mandatory Training for Taxi Drivers 246

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services following a proposal by Councillor Rebecchi that taxi drivers undertake mandatory training as a condition of being granted a new licence or being granted a renewal of an existing licence.

Mr Douglas advised the Board on the content of the Report for consideration.

There followed a discussion on the terms and practicalities of the report.

Decided:

- (i) introduce, in principle, mandatory training for all taxi drivers licensed by Inverclyde Council; that such training must be undertaken by a recognised training body; and mandatory training would be the personal responsibility of those wishing to be licensed as a taxi driver by Inverclyde Council; and
- (ii) remit to the Head of Legal & Property Services to undertake a consultation with the taxi trade and Inverclyde Council on Disability and report back to the Board with the results of the consultation together with options available so that a final decision might be made.

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.

247 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Stuart Maxwell 247

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

Mr Maxwell was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police representation and Mr Maxwell in support of his application.

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Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.

Decided: the application be granted

248 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Scott Cairns 248

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

Mr Cairns was not present or represented.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

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

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Decided: the application be refused.

249 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – William Mearns 249

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

Mr Mearns was not present or represented.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

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

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Decided: the application be refused.

250 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – James Glass 250

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

Mr Glass was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police representation and Mr Glass in support of his application.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.

Decided: the application be granted.

Councillor Rebecchi left the meeting following this item.

251 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Daniel Melville 251

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

Mr Melville was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police representation and Mr Melville in support of his application.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.

Decided: the application be granted.

252 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Stephen Stewart 252

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Stewart following a Police objection.

Mr Douglas advised that Mr Stewart had submitted a letter to the Licensing Section

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intimating that he would be unable to attend the meeting and requested continuation of the hearing to the next meeting of the Board.

Decided: continue consideration to the next meeting of the Board.

253 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Gordon MacDonald 253

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

Mr MacDonald was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police representation and Mr MacDonald in support of his application.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to grant the application.

Decided: the application be granted.

254 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – James Smith 254

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Mr Smith following a Police objection.

Mr Smith was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police objection and Mr Smith in support of his application.

Following discussion the Board unanimously agreed to refuse the application.

Decided: the application be refused.

255 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – John Gavin 255

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

Mr Gavin was present.

Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report.

The Board heard Inspector Kirkwood in support of the Police objection and Mr Gavin in support of his application.

Following discussion Councillor Campbell-Sturgess moved refusal of the application. On a vote, one Member voted for refusal and seven Members for the grant of the application with one Member abstaining.

Mr Douglas declared the application granted.

Decided: the application be granted.

**256 Application for Grant of Street Trader Licence – Peter McGill
Fixed Site at Branchton Road, Greenock 256**

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services for grant of a Street Trader Licence by Mr McGill following a public objection being submitted. The application is to operate a Fixed Site at Branchton Road, Greenock.

Mr McGill was present. Mr McCloy was also present representing Branchton Community Centre Association objection.

Mr McGill had submitted a letter dated 13 March 2015 in support of his application enclosing a signed petition and a letter dated 3 February 2015 from Jericho House as a character reference. Copies were circulated to Members together with a copy of the location plan of the proposed site.

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Mr Douglas advised on the background of the report and intimated that no objections had been received from Police Scotland, any Council Officers or Members consulted on the application.

The Board heard Mr McGill in support of his application and Mr McCloy in support of the objection submitted by Branchton Community Centre Association.

During discussion, Members were concerned as to the exact location of the site and its proximity to Inverclyde Academy and unanimously agreed that a site visit should be undertaken prior to any decision being taken on the application.

Decided:

- (i) remit to the Clerk to arrange a site visit to the proposed location; and
- (ii) continue consideration of the application to the June meeting of the Board.