

LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 27 August 2020 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors C Ahern (Convener), K Baird, A Coates, D Illingworth, R McCall, F Sarwar, C Stewart, R Watters and M Williamson.

In Attendance: Sergeant R Barnett, Sergeant J Gordon, PC R Jamieson (all Police Scotland) (all from Item P1 onwards); S McQueen, D Gilkison, S Michie, D Williams, A Brown, K Molley (up to and including Item 4) and C Wright (up to and including Item 4) (all Corporate and Democratic Services).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Brock, A Parrott and J Rebbeck.

Councillor C Ahern (Convener), Presiding.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Convener welcomed all present to the meeting. Apologies for absence were noted as above.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor F Sarwar declared a non-financial interest in Item 4.

3. MINUTES

The Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee of 9 July 2020 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

HAVING PREVIOUSLY DECLARED A NON-FINANCIAL INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING APPLICATION, COUNCILLOR SARWAR LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

4. GRANT OF TAXI OPERATOR LICENCE NO. X30

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (20/143) regarding the Grant of Taxi Operator Licence No. X30.

The applicant was in attendance, he addressed the Committee and answered members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNEMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED

Motion (Councillors C Ahern and D Illingworth):

Refuse the application for Taxi Operator Licence No. X30, as there was not sufficient evidence to support exceeding the current limit on taxi numbers in Blairgowrie.

Amendment (Councillors R Watters and M Williamson):

Grant the application for Taxi Operator Licence No. X30 as it was considered that there was sufficient unmet demand to justify exceeding the current limit on taxi numbers in Blairgowrie, on the condition that the holder of the licence must have a wheelchair accessible vehicle.

4 members voted for the Motion as follows:

Councillors C Ahern, K Baird, A Coates and D Illingworth.

4 members voted for the Amendment as follows:

Councillors R McCall, C Stewart, R Watters and M Williamson

In terms of Standing Order 56 the convener took the casting vote in favour of the Motion.

Resolved:

In accordance with the motion.

COUNCILLOR SARWAR RETURNED TO THE MEETING AT THIS POINT

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS SHOULD BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH IS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973.

P1. GRANT OF TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE NO. TD1966

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (20/144) together with a letter of objection dated 30 June 2020 from Police Scotland regarding Grant of Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence No. TD1966.

The applicant was in attendance.

The representatives of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions. The applicant also addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

FOLLOWING A SHORT ADJOURNMENT, THE COMMITTEE RECONVENED.

Resolved:

Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence No. TD1966 be granted for a period of 3 years.

P2. REVOCATION OF TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE NO. TD1888

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (20/145) together with a letter dated 11 August 2020 from Police Scotland regarding the revocation of Taxi/Private Hire Licence No. TD1888.

The Licence Holder was in attendance.

The representatives of Police Scotland addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions. The licence holder also addressed the Committee and answered Members' questions.

Resolved:

Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver Licence No. TD1888 be revoked with immediate effect, on the grounds that the licence holder is no longer a fit and proper person to be the holder of the licence.

P3. SUSPENSION OF TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE NO. TD1711

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Governance Services (20/146) together with letter of representation dated 10 July 2020 from Police Scotland in terms of Schedule 1, Paragraph 11(2)(a) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 regarding suspension of Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence No. TD1711.

The licence holder was not in attendance.

Resolved:

Consideration of suspension of Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licence No. TD1711 be deferred to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee on 8 October 2020 in order that the licence holder might appear before the Committee in person.

P4. CONTINUED SUSPENSION OF TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE NO. TD1794

This item was withdrawn from consideration prior to the meeting.

~~~~~