

LICENSING COMMITTEE

At a Hybrid Special Meeting of the Licensing Committee held by video conference on Wednesday, 16 March 2022 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Jim Finn, Jonathan McColl, Lawrence O'Neill and Brian Walker.

Attending: Raymond Lynch, Section Head (Licensing); Robert Mackie, Senior Officer (Licensing Services); Ashley MacIntyre and Lynn Straker, Committee Officers.

Also Attending: David Thomson and Kenny McSheaffrey, Representatives for Dumbarton and Alexandria Taxi Trade.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor Caroline McAllister and Peter Hessett, Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration.

Councillor Jim Finn in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Councillor Finn, Chair, welcomed all those present to the meeting which was being held in hybrid format.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Committee agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

REVIEW OF TAXI FARES AND CHARGES – DUMBARTON AND VALE OF LEVEN TAXI LICENSING ZONE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration providing an update on the review of fares and charges applicable to taxis operating within the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Taxi Licensing Zone.

DECIDED:-

Having heard the Senior Officer (Licensing Services) in further explanation of the report, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the current level of fares and charges applicable to the Dumbarton and Vale of Leven Taxi Licensing Zone be amended as follows:-
 - (i) initial flagfall increase (50p on Tariff 1, 60p on Tariff 2, 90p on Tariff 3, 90p on Tariff 4, £1.00 on Tariff 5 and £1.10 on Tariff 6);
 - (ii) running mile increase (10p on Tariff 1, 10p on Tariff 2, 30p on Tariff 3, 20p on Tariff 4, 20p on Tariff 5 and 40p on Tariff 6) ;
 - (iii) increase waiting time from £18.00 per hour to £24.00 per hour;
 - (iv) increase the soiling fee from £50 to £100; and
 - (v) include an extra charge within the fare chart stating:-

a charge equivalent to the initial flagfall on Tariff 1 shall be payable for a taxi booking made by telephone or via App and not cancelled before arrival when the taxi is no longer required.

- (2) that officers arrange for the advertisement of the fares and charges agreed by the Committee; and
- (3) that authority be delegated to the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration, in consultation with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, to conclude the review without the requirement for the Committee to consider a further report on the matter provided no objections or representations are received in relation to the proposal.

CONSULTATION WITH THE TAXI TRADE ON THE OPTION OF OFFERING A 2–3 YEAR TAXI/PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER’S LICENCE

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration seeking authority to undertake a consultation with the taxi trade on the possibility of offering the option of a licence for a 1, 2 or 3 year period in the future.

DECIDED:-

Having heard the Section Head (Licensing) in further explanation of the report, and in answer to Members’ questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a costings exercise will be carried out and thereafter consultation with the taxi trade with regard to offering the option of 1, 2 or 3 year licenses in the future for Taxi/Private Hire Car Driver's Licences and the proposed fee for each option, with a report following to a future meeting of the Committee;
- (2) that the report to the Committee will include a breakdown of comparator costs and how this works out in terms of full cost recovery and any additional costs involved;
- (3) that officers will provide a detailed breakdown of costs and fees for other licence types; and
- (4) that there will be a separate costings exercise and consultation on whether the option of a 2 or 3 year licence are also offered for other licence types which currently only have the option of a 1 year duration under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, namely window cleaners and street trader employees.

The meeting closed at 2.21 p.m.