

MINUTE
of
LICENSING COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting held at 10.00am in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock, on 9 April 2024.

Present:

Councillor Paul Edlin (Chair)
Provost Mary Montague*

Councillor David Macdonald*
Councillor Andrew Morrison*

Councillor Edlin in the Chair

(*) indicates remote attendance

Attending:

Gerry Mahon, Chief Officer (Legal and Procurement); Brian Kilpatrick, Civic Government Enforcement Officer; and Jennifer Graham, Democratic Services Officer.

Also Attending:

Chief Inspector Graeme Gallie and Sergeant Lisa Brown, Police Scotland.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

806. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

CHANGES TO DRIVER'S KNOWLEDGE TEST

807. The committee considered a report by the Clerk to the Licensing Committee seeking approval to amend the current Knowledge Test by limiting it to a written test and to adopt the new process for all outstanding tests and those referable to new applications for driver licences for both private hire and taxis. (Item 3 refers).

The report explained that the committee had previously agreed that a process of testing be introduced to improve customer services standards which would be known as the "Knowledge Test" and would consist of a written and practical element. However, periods of long term staff absence, allied to the labour intensive nature of the practical process, had resulted in a backlog of tests.

In order to clear the backlog, maintain services standards of drivers, and to minimise future delays it was proposed that the process be limited to a written examination. This change would also allow the Licensing Enforcement Officer to devote more time to enforcement duties.

Following discussion, the committee agreed to authorise the Clerk to:

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- (a) revise the current Knowledge Test process and adopt a new written test format; and
- (b) utilise the new written process for all outstanding tests and test for new applications received in the future.

Resolution to Exclude Press and Public

At this point in the meeting, on the motion of the Chair, the Committee unanimously resolved that in accordance with the provisions of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL

808. The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer – Legal and Procurement in relation to an application for the renewal of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence (Agenda Item 4 refers).

The licensee was present.

Chief Inspector Gallie and Sergeant Brown, representing the Chief Constable, who had made an out of time objection in respect of the application, were present.

The report explained that in determining the application it would be for the Committee to decide if it wished to consider the out of time objection submitted by the Chief Constable and, if so, what weight it wished to attach to the objection and its relevance to the type of licence being applied for.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to consider the out of time objection and copies were circulated.

Sergeant Brown was heard in respect of the objection submitted by the Chief Constable and in response to questions from members.

The licensee was heard in respect of the objection and in response to questions from members.

The Committee agreed to a short adjournment to consider the matter.

On reconvening, the Committee, having taken account of the objection by the Chief Constable, agreed that the application for renewal be continued for six months.

CHAIR