

**MINUTE**  
**of**  
**LICENSING COMMITTEE**

**Minute of virtual meeting held at 10.00am on 15 February 2022.**

**Present:**

Councillor Angela Convery (Chair)  
Councillor Charlie Gilbert

Councillor Annette Ireland  
Councillor Stewart Miller

Councillor Convery in the Chair

**Attending:**

Jacqui McCusker, Senior Solicitor; Jillian McGrain, Principal Housing Officer (Private Sector); Jennifer Graham, Committee Services Officer; and Liona Allison, Assistant Committee Services Officer.

**Apology:**

Councillor Betty Cunningham (Vice Chair).

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**1881.** There were no declarations of interest intimated.

**AMENDMENT TO KNOWLEDGE TEST POLICY FOR PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS**

**1882.** Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of 16 March 2021 (Page 1477, Item 1589 refers), when it had been agreed to introduce, from 1 April 2021, the requirement for all new Private Hire Car Driver applicants, and those private hire car drivers having held a Private Hire Driver's Licence for less than 3 years (as of that date) on renewal, to sit and pass a practical and/or theory knowledge test, the committee considered a report by the Civic Government Enforcement Officer, seeking a suspension of this requirement for a period of 3 months.

The report outlined that the knowledge test was carried out by the Civic Government Licensing Standards Officer (Enforcement Officer) and a backlog of applications had built up due to Coronavirus restrictions. In addition, the post-holder was currently on long-term sick leave and no tests could be carried out at the present time. It was therefore proposed, in order to reduce the backlog and allow more private hire drivers to operate and provide a public service, to suspend the policy for a period of 3 months until 14 May 2022.

Following discussion, the committee agreed that the requirement for all new Private Hire Driver Licence holders, and those having held a Private Hire Driver Licence for less than 3 years on renewal, to sit a practical and/or theory knowledge test be suspended for a period of 3 months until 14 May 2022.

### **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 Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act.

### **PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION**

**1883.** The committee considered a report by the Director of Environment regarding an application for inclusion on the Register of Social Landlords under the terms of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, as amended. The landlord, having been invited to the meeting, was not present and a statement from the landlord was considered by the committee in his absence.

The Principal Housing Officer (Private Sector) was heard in respect of the application and in response to questions from Members.

Following discussion the committee agreed that:-

- (a) the application for inclusion on the Register of Private Landlords be continued to the Licensing Committee meeting on 19 April 2022; and
- (b) the landlord be requested to repay all outstanding debts with East Renfrewshire Council in full prior to the Licensing Committee meeting on 19 April 2022 and ensure that any request to engage with the Council is complied with.

CHAIR