

Minute

Licensing Committee

Thursday, 7 March 2019, 11:15.

Council Chamber, Council Offices, School Place, Kirkwall.



Present

Councillors Duncan A Tullock, Barbara Foulkes, Alexander G Cowie, Norman R Craigie, Robin W Crichton, Steven B Heddle, J Harvey Johnston and Owen Tierney.

Clerk

- Angela Kingston, Committees Officer.

In Attendance

- Gillian Morrison, Executive Director of Corporate Services.
- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- David Brown, Environmental Health Manager.
- Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.

Police Scotland:

- Inspector Keith Bendall.

Declarations of Interest

- No declarations of interest were intimated.

Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

1. Disclosure of Exempt Information

The Committee noted the proposal that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of Item 4, as the business to be discussed involved the potential disclosure of exempt information of the classes described in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

2. Review of Licensing Fees

After consideration of a joint report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Legal Services, the Committee:

Noted:

2.1. That, on 12 February 2019, when considering the revenue budget for 2019 to 2020, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that Executive Directors should review and increase existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2019, if possible to do so, or as early as possible thereafter, with exceptions, where alternative arrangements were required.

2.2. That the exceptions to increasing existing charges by a minimum of 3%, from 1 April 2019, included licensing fees.

2.3. That a comparison of fees charged by the Council with fees charged for similar types of licences or approvals by other local authorities in the north of Scotland had been undertaken, with the outcome detailed in Appendix 1 to the joint report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

2.4. The proposal that, where the Council had discretion, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3% with effect from 1 April 2019, in accordance with the guidance outlined in section 6 of the joint report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

2.5. That, where the Council had discretion, with effect from 1 April 2019, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 3%, resulting in the fee levels detailed in Appendix 1 to this Minute.

3. Review of Fares and Charges

Taxi Services on Mainland Area of Orkney

After consideration of a report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Legal Services, the Committee:

Noted:

3.1. That, on 6 December 2018, the Committee resolved that the proposed scales for maximum fares and charges from 1 May 2019 for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, which were the same as the current scales, be approved for public consultation.

3.2. That the statutory consultation process was undertaken during the period 10 January to 11 February 2019, when the public were requested to submit representations in respect of the proposed scales, referred to at paragraph 3.1 above.

3.3. That no representations were received from the public.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

3.4. That the new scales for maximum fares and charges for all taxi services within the Mainland area of Orkney, including the linked south isles, attached as Appendix 2 to this Minute, which were the same as the current scales, be approved.

3.5. That the scales, referred to at paragraph 3.4 above, should take effect from 1 May 2019.

4. Late Hours Catering Licence

On the motion of Councillor Duncan A Tullock, seconded by Councillor Barbara Foulkes, the Committee resolved that the public be excluded from the meeting for this item, as the business to be considered involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 6 and 14 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended.

The Committee noted that the application forming the subject of this item had been withdrawn and therefore the item was withdrawn.

5. Conclusion of Meeting

At 11:30 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.