

## Minute

### Licensing Committee

Thursday, 10 March 2022, 12:00.

Microsoft Teams.



### 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

- Hazel Flett, Senior Committees Officer.

### In Attendance

- Gavin Mitchell, Head of Legal Services.
- Elaine Sinclair, Legal Clerk.
- Lillian Rendall, Legal Clerk.

### Police Scotland:

- Sergeant Katy Duncan.

### Observing

- Kirsty Groundwater, Communications Team Leader.

### Declaration of Interest

- Councillor Robin W Crichton – Items 2 and 3.

### Chair

- Councillor Duncan A Tullock.

## 1. Form of Voting

The Committee resolved that, should a vote be required in respect of the matters to be considered at this meeting, notwithstanding Standing Order 21.4, the form of voting should be by calling the roll (recorded vote).

## 2. Review of Licensing Fees

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a financial interest in this item, being the holder of a taxi driver's licence, and was not present during discussion thereof.

After consideration of a joint report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration, copies of which had been circulated, and after hearing a report from the Head of Legal Services, the Committee:

Noted:

**2.1.** That, on 22 February 2022, when considering the revenue budget for 2022/23, the Policy and Resources Committee recommended that Corporate Directors should review and increase existing charges by a minimum of 5%, from 1 April 2022, 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 5%, from 1 April 2022, 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 Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

**2.4.** The proposal that, where the Council had discretion, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 5% with effect from 1 April 2022, in accordance with the guidance outlined in section 4 of the joint report by the Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions and the Corporate Director for Enterprise and Sustainable Regeneration.

The Committee resolved, in terms of delegated powers:

**2.5.** That, where the Council had discretion, with effect from 1 April 2022, licensing fees be increased by a minimum of 5%, 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**

Councillor Robin W Crichton declared a non-financial interest in this item, being the holder of a taxi driver's licence, but concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

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

Noted:

**3.1.** That, on 2 December 2021, the Committee resolved that the proposed scales for maximum fares and charges from 1 May 2022 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 6 January to 7 February 2022, 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 2022.

#### **4. Conclusion of Meeting**

At 12:17 the Chair declared the meeting concluded.

Signed: Duncan A Tullock.