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SECOND ADDITIONAL CIRCULATION



To: All Members of the Council

Town House,
ABERDEEN, 10 May 2016

COUNCIL MEETING

The undernoted items are circulated in connection with the meeting of the **COUNCIL** to be held here in the Town House on **WEDNESDAY, 11 MAY 2016 at 10.30am.**

FRASER BELL
HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

BUSINESS

3 Requests for Deputations

3(d) Request from Unite in relation to item 6(a) (Pages 3 - 4)

3(e) Request from Mr Graeme McColl (Aberdeen Taxi Centre) in relation to item 6(a)
(Pages 5 - 6)

3(f) Request from Mr Graeme McColl (Aberdeen Taxi Centre) in relation to item 7(a)
(Pages 7 - 8)

3(g) Request from Mr Gary Craig (Aberdeen Inspired) in relation to item 7(j) (Pages 9 - 12)

BUSINESS THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER IN PRIVATE

- 9(c) New Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre (AECC) Financial Investor
(Pages 13 - 20)

- 9(d) National Housing Trust - Agreement to Dispose of 85 Properties (Pages 21 - 32)

Website Address: www.aberdeencity.gov.uk

Should you require any further information about this agenda, please contact Martyn Orchard, tel. 01224 523097 or email morchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Request for Deputation

Name – Stevie Robertson, Taxi Drivers Representative , Unite the Union

Agenda item 6(a) at Full council meeting 11th May 2016

TITLE OF REPORT REVIEW OF ACCESSIBLE VEHICLE POLICY

REPORT NUMBER CG/16/053

The action we wish the Council to take is to conduct a review of their Accessible Vehicle policy

Please note that in submitting a deputation your name will be placed in the public domain and recorded in the minute.

Return by email to committeeservices@aberdeencity.gov.uk or by post to:

Head of Legal and Democratic Services
1st Floor
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AQ

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Agenda Item 3(e)

ATG
c/o Aberdeen Taxi Centre
Burnside Drive
Dyce
Aberdeen
AB21 0HW

09/05/2016

Allison Swanson
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Ref: Review Of accessible Vehicle Policy

Dear Convenor,

Aberdeen Taxi Group (ATG) would like to address the committee on the above issue.

We arrive back at committee on the above policy to see whether it is needed that further consultation is required on a committee decision from back in 2012.

In short ATG have not changed their mind on the policy and would still be an advocate of a mixed fleet operating with in Aberdeen City (not a 100% accessible fleet).

We are aware of all the consultation processes that have already happened and the results from this but currently we operate a mixed fleet within the city so it is not as if this option can't and won't work. I think there is a reluctance to continue like this due to how a fair system can be implemented to which drivers would be allocated the SALOON Hackney plate. This is something that would need further discussion but we are sure it is not a breaking point in the decision.

As a trade we have always looked at why a 100% accessible fleet would be beneficial.

The honest answer that we come up with is it would not be helpful to the stakeholders that use this part of public transport. Whilst we realise that there have been EHRIA forms done for this proposal we don't feel that it represents what the public actually need. There are a wide and differing range of disabilities and not all accessible vehicles are able to cope with these.

From the last set of reports and discussions it became clear that the only vehicle that gave full ambulatory access was indeed an ambulance. This was then and is now not the answer as clearly this is not an affordable option.

So on the back of this information we have a list of taxis that are deemed fit to pass the Councils Hackney testing.

These specifications of the cars and a list of vehicles are found in Appendix 2 and 3 of the 2012 report by Paul Connolly. This list is now slightly outdated but still gives a good indication of the different types of vehicles that have been adapted to try and fit the 100% accessible vehicle policy.

Does this list of vehicles fit the needs of all stakeholders?

We don't feel it does as not all disabilities are able to use all types of vehicles. We have gone over and over why not all cars are able to take all types of passengers over the years and I'm sure that all members here today have access to that information and will take that in to consideration when making a decision on whether further consultation is needed.

There is not one person that I have spoken to as Chairman of ATG that wants to discriminate against any part of our society which is why they all feel that a mixed fleet would work best as this would offer the widest variety of taxis to all.

I stand by my comments from the licensing committee on 6th April 2016 that 54 % of the taxi fleet being accessible is probably enough but I am not the person to decide that the consultation process was and is.

Also a number of drivers who have already moved to accessible vehicles based on the June 2017 date coming would have a potential grievance if the 2017 policy be overturned. What do the council do with these licences if further consultation takes place and 2017 becomes something different?

We ask that no matter what is decided that it is watertight in law and cannot be challenged in a court of law.

Regards

Graeme McColl

Chairman ATG

Agenda Item 3(f)

ATG
c/o Aberdeen Taxi Centre
Burnside Drive
Dyce
Aberdeen
AB21 0HW

09/05/2016

Allison Swanson
Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Marischal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Ref: Age Of Vehicles

Dear Convenor,

The above issue went to TCG on the 1st March 16 and below is what was resolved.

The Consultation Group resolved:

(i)that officers check current legislation and investigate the procedures involved in changing from a taxi licence to a private hire car licence and report back to the Licensing Committee; and

(ii)that it would suggest to the Licensing Committee no action be taken on the age of vehicles being transferred at this stage.

We feel current age limits still have to be enforced as surely it is confusing enough that we are already looking at 2017 without putting something else in the mix for all who are trying to make the transition.

We would ask the question of why we would put in an interim measure instead of looking for a permanent solution to the age of vehicle. It is still felt that if you increase the ages that the standard of the fleet would drop. If a driver has a car that does not fit current legislation they can apply to the council to see whether or not it can be passed (this can be heard on a case by case basis by ACC).

Why are we looking at changing the age limits?

Point four of the recommendations seems to be favourable to the taxi driver but is this the best decision for a vehicle going in to the public transport system in Aberdeen City?

It seems that we are changing for changing sake and the question that has to be asked is, is this the best action to take in keeping the standard of the fleet high?

Regards

Graeme McColl

Chairman ATG

Garry Watson

From: Martyn Orchard
Sent: 10 May 2016 12:26
To: Garry Watson
Subject: FW: May Council Meeting

From: Gary Craig [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 May 2016 12:17
To: Martyn Orchard
Cc: Ciaran Monaghan; Roderick MacBeath
Subject: RE: May Council Meeting

Martyn

On the basis that there is a report on the agenda, I am keen to request to speak at the Council meeting next week. What time do you expect it to take place?

Gary Craig

CEO

3rd Floor, 32 Upperkirkgate Aberdeen AB10 1BA

[REDACTED]



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Aberdeen Inspired registered in Scotland number 4367635
Registered Address: 32 Upperkirkgate Aberdeen Aberdeenshire AB10 1BA

From: Martyn Orchard [<mailto:MOrchard@aberdeencity.gov.uk>]
Sent: 29 March 2016 16:53
To: Gary Craig [REDACTED]
Cc: Ciaran Monaghan <CMonaghan@aberdeencity.gov.uk>; Roderick MacBeath <RMacBeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: May Council Meeting

Hello Gary,

Ciaran has forwarded your email to me. The link below will hopefully provide you with some helpful information in terms of the process for requesting to speak at a Council meeting – this is known as a deputation.

http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/council_government/CommitteeServices/cs_making_a_deputation.asp

The agenda for the Council meeting on 11 May will be published on the Council website on the morning of 4 May - at that point you should be able to tell if there is a report on the City Centre Masterplan on the agenda, or potentially going to be on the agenda as a late report. Once the report is online, you will be able to request a deputation stating what action, if any, you wish the Council to take in relation to the report. The deadline for requesting a deputation for the May Council meeting is by the close of 9 May, however a request isn't valid until the report has been published online, providing it's a public report.

Please let me know if you need any more information.

Martyn

Martyn Orchard
Senior Committee Services Officer

Legal and Democratic Services
Corporate Governance
Aberdeen City Council
Town House
Broad Street
Aberdeen AB10 1AQ

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 Follow us @AberdeenCC

From: Gary Craig [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 March 2016 14:24
To: Ciaran Monaghan
Subject: May Council Meeting

I am keen to attend the next Council meeting to give Aberdeen Inspired views on requiring progress on the Masterplan, and in particular a decision either way on Broad Street.
I am not sure how I get an opportunity to attend and hopefully speak, but happy to take your guidance.

Gary

Gary Craig

CEO

3rd Floor, 32 Upperkirkgate Aberdeen AB10 1BA



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