

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR CONSULTATION GROUP

ABERDEEN, 2 December 2020. Minute of Meeting of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group. Present:- Councillor Reynolds, Chairperson; and Councillors Delaney and McRae, Stewart Duncan (Airport Drivers), Graeme McColl (Aberdeen Taxi Group) and Russell McLeod (Rainbow City Taxis).

In attendance:- PC Ian Duthie (Police Scotland) (as a substitute for Sergeant Flett), Dave McKane (Enforcement Officer), Alan McKay (Roads), Ruth Milne (Spaces for People), Sandy Munro (Licensing), Ross Stevenson (Operations), John Weir (Fleet Services), John Wilson (Chief Officer - Capital), Mark Masson and Emma Robertson (Committee Services).

Apologies:- Arlene Dunbar (Licensing), Sergeant Gillian Flett (Police Scotland) and William Whyte (Fleet Services).

MINUTE OF MEETING OF 7 OCTOBER 2020 - FOR APPROVAL

1. The Consultation Group had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 7 October 2020.

The Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group resolved:-
to approve the minute as a correct record.

TAXI RANKS

2. The Consultation Group had before it correspondence from Russell McLeod, regarding changes to taxi ranks during the Covid pandemic.

John Wilson acknowledged that decisions had been made at pace with Public Health and that physical distancing was the primary concern. Mr Wilson gave assurances that any proposal moving forward would be in consultation with the taxi trade. He undertook to arrange site visits with group members within two weeks.

The Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group resolved:-
to note the update.

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE POLICY REVIEW

3. The Consultation Group had before it a report on the Taxi and Private Hire Policy Review for information. Sandy Munro explained that the report had gone before the Licensing Committee to provide it with details of the review of all taxi and private hire policies and to seek approval to consult on the proposed changes.

It was noted that approval to consult had been agreed by the Licensing Committee on 10 November 2020.

There followed discussions and the Group agreed that their main concerns were:

- (i) changes to the zoning; and
- (ii) change to the owner registration requirement to be the licence holder.

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Mr Munro explained that this was the start of the consultation process following a two year long review, during which time, the trade were strongly encouraged to participate and submit their views.

The Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group resolved:-
to note the information.

TAXI KNOWLEDGE TEST

4. The Consultation Group heard from Russell McLeod regarding Taxi Knowledge Tests. Mr McLeod stated that it had been nine months since the Test had been available and during that time a significant number of drivers had left the taxi trade.

Sandy Munro advised that they were very close to being able to restart the Knowledge Tests; that an appropriate room had been identified to undertake the tests at Marischal College following consultation with the Health and Safety Team and the proposals were currently with Trade Unions for approval.

The Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group resolved:-
to note the information.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8. The Consultation Group noted that the next meeting would be held on 17 February 2021, at 10am.
- **COUNCILLOR JOHN REYNOLDS, Convener.**