

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Licensing Committee
DATE	23 April 2019
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Application for Taxi Rank at TECA
REPORT NUMBER	GOV/19/229
DIRECTOR	
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Lynn May
TERMS OF REFERENCE	3.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee of a request from SMG Europe Holdings Limited to establish a new permanent taxi rank at The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA).

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

2.1 considers the request from SMG Europe Holdings Limited for a new permanent taxi rank at TECA (A copy of the request is attached at Appendix 1); and

2.2 subject to approval of the request contained at recommendation 2.1, instructs the Chief Officer Governance to undertake the formal consultation on the proposal for a new permanent taxi rank at TECA, as illustrated in Appendix 2 and 3, in terms of Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 with

- Persons or organisations appearing to be representative of taxi operators in the area, ie. the Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group.
- The Chief Constable, Police Scotland.
- The Public, by way of notice of the proposal in an advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in the area giving 28 days for any objections or representations.
- Aberdeen City Council as the Roads Authority.

The outcome of this formal consultation will be reported back to the Licensing Committee at its meeting on 4 June 2019.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA), is the City's new events venue and arena, which is to be operational from Summer 2019. As part of the traffic management arrangements for the site it is proposed that a new permanent Taxi Rank be appointed for a maximum of 12 taxis. It is further proposed that there will be an additional taxi drop off area adjacent to this, and a further drop of area in relation to an on-site hotel. Plans illustrating the proposed new taxi rank and drop off point are attached to this report (Appendix 2 and 3)
- 3.2 In order to consider a proposal for the formation of new Taxi Rank, the Licensing Authority require to carry out a formal consultation with persons or organisations representative of taxi operators in the area (the Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group (TPHCG)), the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, Aberdeen City Council as Roads Authority and members of the Public by way of public advertisement in a newspaper circulating in their area. The authority require to give 28 days for representations or objections in respect of the proposal for a new rank to be submitted to them, from the day of first publication of the public notice. Any responses received to this consultation will require to be fully considered by the Licensing Authority before a final decision can be taken and any new rank appointed.
- 3.3 The 2018 Taxi Demand Survey included a review of the taxi ranks in the City. As part of that review, stakeholders were asked to identify suggestions for new taxi ranks. These suggestions were assessed for suitability with respect to nearby land uses, potential road space to locate the ranks and suitability of such potential road space, together with the likelihood of a rank space becoming established. One of the suggested locations for a new rank was the AECC, as events result in large volumes of people leaving over a short period. It therefore states that provision for taxis to rank up during such periods when large of people are leaving after events, would be helpful and enable a flexible level of service to be provided. The survey noted that the AECC was to be replaced with a new larger facility, TECA, and suggested that a dedicated facility for taxis to rank up to pick up passengers in high volume would be a prudent addition to the new conference centre.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The approval of the recommendations will require:
- 4.1.2 The staff costs of implementing the statutory formal consultation, detailed in recommendation 2.2, will be met from within existing approved licensing budgets.
- 4.1.3 The advertising costs of the public notice in a newspaper circulating in the authorities area, detailed in recommendation 2.2, will be met from the taxi licence budgets.

4.2 With reference to paragraph 5.1.2 below, any costs for signage or lining a rank at the TECA site have been included in the construction costs, and there will be no additional cost to Aberdeen City Council as a result of appointing a taxi rank.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Appointment of a New Taxi Rank

Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 authorises a licensing authority to appoint, after consultation, stances for taxis for the whole or any part of a day in any road within their area or on any land owned by the authority or, with the consent of the owner, on any land owned by him. A licensing authority may also from time to time, after consultation, vary the number of taxis permitted to be at each stance and alter the position of such stances or revoke the appointment thereof.

5.1.2 Section 19 further allows a licensing authority to erect and illuminate signs, and cause lines or marks to be made on roads; indicating the limits of taxi ranks.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

	Risk	Low (L), Medium (M), High (H)	Mitigation
Financial	The costs of implementing the recommendations and/or the cost of the signs and lining a rank exceed the budget provision available.	L	Close monitoring of the costs committed to the work and the budget available. The cost of the signs and lining a rank are mitigated by prior agreement.
Legal	As per paragraph 5 above.	L	Compliance with the statutory requirements
Employee	There is no risk to employees arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
Customer	The proposal for a new Taxi rank at TECA and subsequent consultation will consider the provision of ranks/taxis for the	L	The proposal and consultation on a new taxi rank in the City at TECA will be of interest to the Citizens

	customers and citizens of Aberdeen		of Aberdeen to help improve taxi services in the City.
Environment	There is no risk to the environment arising from the recommendations of this report	L	The 2018 Taxi Demand Survey recommended there be no increase in the limit of taxi licences granted and therefore no increase in the number of vehicles using any new taxi rank. A new taxi rank and provision for public transport at TECA may offset the number of private vehicles and thus emissions from visitors.
Technology	There is no risk to technology arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
Reputational	As a licensing authority there would be a reputational risk to the Council if it failed to undertake its legal duty to carry out the statutory procedure in section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act for consideration and consultation on any proposed new taxi rank.	L	As this report is recommending that the Committee undertake the statutory formal consultation and public notice procedure in order to consider the proposal for a new taxi rank, any risk will be mitigated.

7. OUTCOMES

Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes	
	Impact of Report
Economy	TECA is Aberdeen and Scotland's new venue and arena which will bring a huge boost to the local economy and tourism. Good traffic management, facilities and transportation links ie. a Taxi Rank, will benefit TECA, its visitors and in turn the local economy.
People	All people in Aberdeen are entitled to feel safe and protected from harm, and fully included in the life of

	the City. TECA will allow people to enjoy large events but it is necessary they enjoy these safely and can leave and disperse from these in a safe manner. Therefore a well managed taxi rank and good traffic management is required.
Place	The provision of sufficient and suitable taxi ranks are essential to the sustainable development of and investment in infrastructure necessary for commuters and visitors to the City.

Design Principles of Target Operating Model	
	Impact of Report
Customer Service Design	TECA will offer a significant event facility to the people of Aberdeen and visitors to the City. The 2018 Taxi Demand Survey had already identified that a dedicated taxi rank would be a prudent addition for the new TECA. It has further been identified that the location of a taxi rank at TECA will allow connectivity to the City's other main transport links, Aberdeen International Airport, the new AWPR and the City's railway stations. It will further assist with the overall traffic management of the TECA site, particularly at large events. The proposal suggests a rank will therefore help cater for customer need at this new venue. Formal consultation however requires to be conducted before a taxi rank can be appointed.
Partnerships and Alliances	Section 19 of The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 requires a formal consultation process to be undertaken before a new taxi rank can be appointed. This includes consulting with representatives of taxi licence holders in the City and members of the public or other interested bodies, including potential customers and users of taxis and any proposed rank, by way of an advertisement in the local press. The Licensing Authority also require to consult with the Roads Authority and Police Scotland. The Licensing Authority require to consider all responses to the consultation before making a final decision, and therefore all relevant views will have been sought and considered before any rank is appointed.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Completed and not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Application Letter from TECA/SMG Europe Holdings Limited
Appendix 2 – Plan – Taxi Rank & Drop Off Point
Appendix 3 – Plan – TECA Site

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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