

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE</b>	4 June 2019
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Application for a Taxi Rank at TECA
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	GOV/19/269
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Fraser Bell
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Lynn May
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	3.

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To report the outcome of the formal consultation on the proposal to establish a new permanent taxi rank at The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA).

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee :-

2.1 consider the responses received to the formal consultation, on the proposal for a new permanent taxi rank at TECA, in terms of Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

2.2 agree to appoint a new permanent taxi rank at The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA), which will be situated to the west of the main TECA building, will provide spaces for 12 taxis, will extend for 67.8 metres or thereby, and will operate 24 hours per day, 7 days a week.

### 3. BACKGROUND

3.1 The Licensing Committee at their meeting on 23 April 2019 considered a report from the Chief Officer Governance regarding a request from SMG Holdings LTD to establish a new permanent taxi rank at The Events Complex Aberdeen (TECA), and resolved

- (i) to approve the request from SMG Europe Holdings Limited for a new permanent taxi rank at TECA; and
- (ii) to instruct the Chief Officer Governance to undertake the formal consultation on the proposal for a new permanent taxi rank at TECA, 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.

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

3.1.2 Plans illustrating the proposed new taxi rank and drop off point are attached to this report (Appendix 1 and 2).

3.2 The Public Consultation was undertaken by way of a public notice appearing in the Evening Express newspaper on Wednesday 24 April 2019, a copy of which is attached to this report at Appendix 3, inviting comments by 22 May 2019. The Public Notice was also displayed on the Aberdeen City Council Website Consultation Hub for the statutory consultation period of 28 days until 22 May 2019.

3.2.1 Twenty-five responses were received to the public consultation, the majority were in favour of the proposal to establish a permanent taxi rank at TECA. It was noted that a number of the respondents questioned whether 12 spaces for taxis at the rank would be sufficient. It is advised that the operation of the rank, along with the other traffic management arrangements at TECA, will be kept under review and further proposals can be placed before the Committee if required. Details of the responses received are attached to this report at Appendix 4.

3.3 The following responses have been received to the formal statutory consultation on the proposed new taxi rank at TECA :-

3.3.2 Aberdeen City Council as Roads Authority commented that “They are content with the proposals and have been involved in the Traffic Management proposals for the development” at TECA.

3.3.3 Police Scotland commented that they are content and therefore have no comment on the proposals.

#### 4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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.

- 5.2 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
<b>Financial</b>	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.
<b>Legal</b>	As per paragraph 5 above.	L	Compliance with the statutory requirements
<b>Employee</b>	There is no risk to employees arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
<b>Customer</b>	The proposal for a new Taxi rank at TECA and 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.
<b>Environment</b>	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.
<b>Technology</b>	There is no risk to technology arising from the recommendations of this report.	L	N/A
<b>Reputational</b>	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 consider the responses from the statutory formal consultation and public notice procedure in order to therefore determine the proposal for a new taxi rank, any risk will be mitigated.

## 7. OUTCOMES

<b>Local Outcome Improvement Plan Themes</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
	The proposals in this report have no direct impact on the LOIP.

<b>Design Principles of Target Operating Model</b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Customer Service Design</b>	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. A formal consultation required to be undertaken and the responses considered before a taxi rank can be appointed.
<b>Partnerships and Alliances</b>	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 have been sought and will be considered before any rank is appointed.

## 8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

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

**9. APPENDICES (if applicable)**

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Plan – Taxi Rank & Drop Off Point  
Appendix 2 – Plan – TECA Site  
Appendix 3 - Public Notice in Evening Express 24 April 2019  
Appendix 4 - Responses to Public Consultation

**10. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

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