

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR CONSULTATION GROUP

ABERDEEN, 6 November 2024. Minute of Meeting of the TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR CONSULTATION GROUP. Present:- Councillor Al-Samarai, Chairperson; and Councillors Clark, Delaney, Henrickson and Lawrence; and Alan Catto (Independent), Chris Douglas (Private Hire Trade), Russell McLeod (Licensed Taxi Offices), Nathan Harbi (as substitute for Luke Hulse (Independent)), Hussein Patwa (Disability Equity Partnership), Peter Campbell (Unite), Colin Dodds (GMB) and Craig Falconer (Airport Drivers).

In attendance:- Sandy Munro, Alexa Last and Dave McKane (Licensing Team); and Mark Masson and Gogo Okafor (Committee Services).

Please note that if any changes are made to this minute at the point of approval, these will be outlined in the subsequent minute and this document will not be retrospectively altered.

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Luke Hulse.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST OR TRANSPARENCY STATEMENTS

2. There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements intimated.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2024 - FOR APPROVAL

3. The Consultation Group had before it the minute of its previous meeting of 4 September 2024.

The Consultation Group resolved:-
to approve the minute.

REVISED REMIT AND MEMBERSHIP - AGREED BY LICENSING COMMITTEE ON 9 OCTOBER 2024 - FOR INFORMATION ONLY

4. The Consultation Group had before it a report for information which was presented to the Licensing Committee on 9 October 2024 to consider changes to the membership and remit of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group (T&PHC Consultation Group).

The Licensing Committee agreed to:-

- approve the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group membership in accordance with the proposed composition at 3.14 of the report;

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- reduce the number of meetings to three per annum, commencing 2025, noting that there is scope to arrange Special meetings for specific and/or urgent items as indicated in section 3.8 of the report;
- approve the updated remit of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group, including the process for removing non attendees outlined in 3.11 of this report;
- delete the 'Independent Driver' vacancy on the Consultation Group, noting that the position had been vacant for a number of years; and
- take no action in relation to increasing the Taxi Trade representation on the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group.

The Consultation Group resolved:-

to note the content of the report.

ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT

5. The Consultation Group had before it for consideration, the Enforcement Officer's report which provided details relating to Taxi/Private Hire Car issues and information.

The report provided details of (a) the current numbers of licensed vehicles and drivers compared to August 2023; and (b) street knowledge test statistics during the period 21 August to 22 October 2024.

Dave McKane provided a summary of the report and indicated that private hire cars had increased to 295.

Sandy Munro provided an update on various licensing matters as follows:-

- officers have been working on the Testing Manual and a first draft had been prepared which should be circulated to the taxi trade members for feedback in the near future;
- a report relating to a Mixed Fleet would be submitted to the Licensing Committee at their next meeting on 4 December 2024; and
- the process on the Fare Review has commenced and initial calculations would be circulated to taxi operators for their input by 20 November, following which a report would be circulated to the next meeting of the Licensing Committee.

During discussion Mr Munro responded to a number of questions and advised that (1) officers were currently looking at the requirements for the over 65 years old medical for drivers and would be liaising with other local authorities in this regard; and (2) some progress had been made in terms of a training programme for drivers, however discussions had stalled recently in relation to identifying an appropriate training provider.

The Consultation Group resolved:-

to note the information provided.

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2025 MEETING DATES

6. The Consultation Group had before it their meeting dates for 2025, all to be held at 10.00am in Committee Room 2, Town House, as follows:-

- 30 April;
- 24 September; and
- 3 December.

The Consultation Group resolved:-

to note the meeting dates for 2025.

- **COUNCILLOR GILL AL-SAMARAI, Chairperson**