

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE</b>	27 August 2025
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Membership of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group.
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CORS/25/123
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Jenni Lawson
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Mark Masson
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	Introduction 3

---

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to consider changes to the membership of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group (T&PHCCG).

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

- 2.1 approve the amendments to the membership of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group as outlined in section 3.16 of this report; and
- 2.2 review the membership of the Consultation Group in 12 months' time.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The T&PHCCG is a discussion group of the Licensing Committee and currently consists of the following:-
- 5 Elected members;
  - 1 representing Aberdeen International Airport Drivers;
  - 1 representing Aberdeen Rail Taxi Drivers;
  - 1 representing Disability Equity Partnership;
  - 2 representing Independent Drivers;
  - 1 representing Licensed Taxi Booking Offices;
  - 1 representing Private Hire Trade;
  - 1 representing Unite Union; and
  - 1 representing GMB Union.
- 3.2 Additional attendees include the Council's Enforcement Officer(s), the Fleet Services Manager, a legal adviser representing the licensing function and a representative from Police Scotland. Other relevant representatives and officers are invited to attend meetings on an ad hoc basis.

- 3.3 Taxi trade members must represent a specific and recognised interest group. It is understood that the representatives will report to their members after meetings.
- 3.4 The group acts without any powers but discusses matters of relevance to the taxi trade at the discretion of the Convener and makes recommendations to the Licensing Committee as appropriate.
- 3.5 Matters of relevance includes all matters relevant to the taxi trade in Aberdeen that are within the remit of the Licensing Committee.
- 3.6 Members may recall that a report was considered by the Committee on 9 October 2024, which sought consideration of possible changes to the membership and remit of the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group.
- 3.7 The Committee agreed (1) to approve the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group membership in accordance with the proposed composition at 3.14 of the report; (2) to reduce the number of meetings to three per annum, commencing 2025, noting that there was scope to arrange Special meetings for specific and/or urgent items as indicated in section 3.8 of the report; (3) to 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 the report; (4) to delete the 'Independent Driver' vacancy on the Consultation Group, noting that the position had been vacant for a number of years; and (5) to take no action in relation to increasing the Taxi Trade representation on the Taxi and Private Hire Car Consultation Group.
- 3.8 Currently there are eight Licensed Taxi Booking Offices in Aberdeen, which are:-
- Rainbow City Taxis;
  - Aberdeen Taxis;
  - Aberdeen International Airport;
  - ComCab;
  - Central Taxis (Aberdeen) Ltd;
  - Leadryde Technology Ltd;
  - Chariots Private Hire (Scotland) Ltd; and
  - Uber.
- 3.9 There was an expression of interest from a ComCab representative to join the membership as a Disability Liaison representative, however the Group was covered in that respect by the Disability Equity Partnership representative so that request was declined by the Committee.
- 3.10 A further request was more recently received from an Uber representative, advising that they did not feel that they were being represented at the Consultation Group meetings sufficiently/effectively and were not receiving any correspondence from the Licensed Taxi Booking Office Group representative.

- 3.11 Given these membership requests, Emails were sent out by the Licensing Team to gauge interest from booking offices for membership to the Taxi and Private Hire Consultation group on 30 April 2025. Representatives from Central Taxis (Aberdeen), Chariots Private Hire, ComCab, Leadryde, and Uber were contacted to register their interest, as they did not currently have representatives on the Taxi and Private Hire Consultation Group.
- 3.12 The Licensing Team received responses from Chariots Private Hire, Comcab, Leadryde, and Uber to say that their booking office would be interested in membership to the group. However, a response was never received from Central Taxis (Aberdeen)
- 3.13 It is worth noting that a driver from Aberdeen International Airport had approached Council officers explaining that their drivers were not being represented by the Aberdeen International Airport Taxi Booking Office representative on the Taxi and Private Hire Care Consultation Group and sought the means in which they could be better represented. In January 2025 the Licensing Team held a vote between an Aberdeen International Airport Driver and a representative from the Licensed Taxi Booking Office at the Airport in order to identify a suitable person to represent the drivers who operate from the Airport. The vote was unanimously in favour of the Airport Driver representative, who has been attending meetings of the Consultation Group since.
- 3.14 Aberdeen International Airport had since written to the Clerk and Licensing Committee Convener expressing their disappointment at the decision to remove the Aberdeen International Airport Booking Office from the Consultation Group and requested that their Taxi Manager be reinstated as a member representative on the Group.
- 3.15 Members of the Committee should consider whether to amend the membership of the T&PHCCG, to include representation from Licensed Taxi Booking Offices including Aberdeen International Airport, in order that they can consider taxi trade licensing matters relevant to them and/or their drivers.
- 3.16 In order to facilitate this, members should consider the following amendments:-
- delete reference that there would only be one representative for all 'Licensed Taxi Booking Offices' – currently Rainbow City Taxis representative;
  - delete reference to 'Private Hire Trade' – currently Aberdeen Taxis representative; and
  - include one representative from each of the following Booking offices:- Rainbow City Taxis, Aberdeen Taxis, Chariots Private Hire, ComCab, Leadryde, Aberdeen International Airport and Uber.

This would allow all Licensed Taxi Booking Offices who had expressed an interest to be represented on the T&PHCCG.

- 3.17 If agreed the membership of the T&PHCCG would be as follows:-
- 5 Elected members;
  - 1 representing Aberdeen Airport Drivers;

- 1 representing Aberdeen International Airport (booking office)
- 1 representing Rainbow City Taxis;
- 1 representing Aberdeen Taxis;
- 1 representing Chariots Private Hire;
- 1 representing ComCab;
- 1 representing Leadryde;
- 1 representing Uber;
- 1 representing Aberdeen Rail Taxi Drivers;
- 1 representing Disability Equity Partnership;
- 2 representing Independent Drivers;
- 1 representing Unite Union; and
- 1 representing GMB Union.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications from the recommendations of this report.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

#### **7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK**

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	N/A			Yes
Compliance	N/A			Yes
Operational	N/A			Yes
Financial	N/A			Yes
Reputational	N/A			Yes
Environment / Climate	N/A			Yes

#### **8. OUTCOMES**

- 8.1 There are no links to the Council Delivery Plan.

#### **9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Impact assessment completed previously, no changes required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

## **10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

## **11. APPENDICES**

11.1 None.

## **12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS**

Mark Masson  
Committee Services Officer  
[mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:mmasson@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 067556