

MINUTE

B – PUBLIC

Licensing Committee
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick
Friday 21 November 2014 at 10.30am

Present:

G Smith	C Smith
P Campbell	A Cooper
A Westlake	

Apologies:

M Bell
Mr Duncan
Mr Robinson

In Attendance (Officers):

Inspector L Tulloch, Police Scotland
M Craigie, Executive Manager – Transport Planning
P Wishart, Solicitor
L Gair, Committee Officer

Chair

Mr G Smith, Chair of the Committee, presided.

Circular

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

Declarations of Interest

None

19/14 **Minutes**

The minutes of the Licensing Committee held on 9 October 2014, having been circulated, were confirmed on the motion of Mr Campbell seconded by Ms Westlake.

20/14 **Taxi/Private Hire Car Tariffs Review**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Transport Planning (TP-12-14-F), which set out a revised table of tariffs proposed subsequent to consultation with the Shetland Taxi Owners Association and sought approval of the Committee to engage statutory consultees on the detail of the proposals.

The Executive Manager – Transport Planning introduced the report.

A Member questioned why rate 1 was being changed and not rate 2 when there was likely to be more demand under rate 2. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised that this increase was not profit driven and operators were trying to recover its costs whilst remaining an attractive option.

Another Member commented that the suggested rates, compared to the rest of Scotland, were reasonable when cost pressures such as fuel are higher than anywhere else. The Executive Manager – Transport Planning said that fuel costs would have been considered as part of the overall increase.

In response to a question, the Executive Manager – Transport Planning advised that there are different approaches to paying drivers and one is based on a percentage of the takings and some drivers are employed on contracts.

Mr C Smith moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Ms Westlake.

On the motion of Mr G Smith, seconded by Mr C Smith the Committee resolved in terms of subsection 4 of Section 50A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public from this meeting during consideration of the following agenda item on the grounds that it is likely that, if the public were present, there would be disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the said Act.

21/14 **Application for Grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence**

The Committee considered a report by the Executive Manager – Transport Planning, which sought a decision on one application for a Taxi Driver's Licence, to which there had been adverse representations from Police Scotland and that cannot be granted by Officers under delegated authority.

The Committee decided to admit, for consideration, observations from the Police concerning previous convictions of the applicants. Copies of the Police observations were then circulated to Members.

Decision:

The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- approve the grant of a taxi driver's licence for a period of 1 year;
- approve the grant of a taxi driver's licence for a period of 3 year.

The meeting concluded at 10.50am.

CHAIR