



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CABINET**

**THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2015
COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HOUSE, HADDINGTON**

Committee Members Present:

Councillor J McNeil (Chair)
Councillor J Caldwell
Councillor S Currie
Councillor J Williamson
Councillor D Grant

Council Officials Present:

Mr I Forrest, Senior Solicitor
Ms M Winter, Licensing Administration Assistant

Others Present:

Insp A Hogarth, Police Scotland
PC H Bowsher, Police Scotland
Ms C Allan, Police Scotland

Clerk:

Mrs F Stewart

Apologies:

Councillor J McMillan

Declarations of Interest:

None

1. TAXI FARE REVIEW

The Depute Chief Executive (Resources and People) had submitted a report to inform the Sub-Committee of the outcome of a consultation with the taxi trade relative to the review of taxi fares.

The Legal Adviser advised that there was a statutory requirement on the Council to review taxi fares on a schedule of at least one such review every 18 months. The last review had taken place in August 2014, and therefore the next such review would require to be undertaken by no later than February 2016. To ensure compliance with the timescales, the Licensing Section had issued a consultation letter to all members of the taxi trade on 28 August 2015 inviting proposals on the rate of taxi fares relative to the current review. Comments were invited by 25 September 2015 and, by the closing date, no comments or proposals on fares had been received from the taxi trade. In the absence of any proposals for an increase in fares by the trade, the Legal Adviser recommended that the Sub-Committee completed the fare review by deciding that fare levels should remain at the current levels for the next 18 month period. The current fare levels were shown in the appendix to the report.

The Chair was pleased to note that a wide consultation had been carried out.

Decision

The Sub-Committee agreed to:

- i. note the content of this report and the outcome of the review;
- ii. complete the review of taxi fares by resolving to keep fares at their current levels, given the lack of any proposals for an increase from the trade; and to
- iii. note that the next review of taxi fares shall require to be undertaken by no later than May 2017.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS – EXEMPT INFORMATION

The Licensing Sub-Committee unanimously agreed to exclude the public from the following business containing exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 6 (information concerning the financial or business affairs of any particular person other than the Authority) of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Applications for the Grant of a Taxi/Private Hire Car Licence

The Sub-Committee had received three applications for a licence; one was agreed, one was continued and one was refused.

3. Applications for renewal of a Taxi/Private Hire Car Licence

The Sub-Committee had received one application for the Renewal of a Taxi/Private Hire Car Licence and it was deferred for 14 days to allow the applicant to obtain a Group 2 medical certificate confirming that he was fit to drive a taxi.

4. Private Minute of the Licensing Sub-Committee meeting on 8 October 2015

The Sub-Committee agreed that the minute of 8 October 2015 was a true record of the meeting.