

REGULATORY PANEL

Minutes of a hybrid webcast meeting of
16 February 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

Present in County Hall: Councillors Kenneth Bell (Chair), Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Brian Connolly, Martin Kilbride and Duncan Townson.

Present Remotely: Councillors Mark Dixon, Mary Kilpatrick and Craig Mackay.

Attending: K. Briggs, Service Lead – Legal and Licensing; D. Scobie, Civic Licensing Standards Officer; J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer; C. Griffiths, Committee Services Assistant; and E. Moore, Clerical Assistant.

In Attendance: Inspector I. McColl, Police Scotland.

Chair's Remarks

The Chair

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting; and
- (2) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting and advised that this meeting would be broadcast live.

1. Sederunt and Declarations of Interest.

The Service Lead – Legal and Licensing called the Sederunt for the meeting and having called the roll, confirmed that that Councillor Townson declared an interest in Item No. 6(b)(i) of this Minute as the applicant was known to him.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 19 January 2023 (issued) were submitted and approved.

3. Exclusion of press and public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded from the remaining items of business on the agenda, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Licences

Taxi Driver

Reference was made to the Minutes of 19 January 2023 (Page 2, paragraph 4(a)(i)) when the Panel had decided, at the request of the applicant, to continue consideration of this application to this meeting. The Panel now heard from the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing and from the applicant, Muhammad Azhar in response.

Decided: to approve this application for three years, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

5. Variation in Order of Business.

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 13(2), the Panel agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

6. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 - Licences

(a) Private Hire Driver.

The Panel heard an objection from Police Scotland and from the representative for the applicant, Alexander Macrae, in response.

In terms of Standing Order No. 19.9, there was no general agreement to the unopposed motion of approval of the application for one year, therefore, the Panel moved to a vote for or against the Motion. Seven Members voted for the Motion, one Member voted against the Motion and one Member Abstained.

Decided: by a majority, to approve this application for one year, subject to standard conditions as previously agreed.

Having previously declared an interest in this matter, Councillor Townson left the meeting during consideration of this application.

(b) Taxi Drivers

- (i) The Panel heard from Police Scotland and from the licence holder in relation to the proposed suspension of the licence currently held by David Knox Little; and adjourned for consideration of this matter.

Decided: upon reconvening, to suspend the licence currently held by David Knox Little with immediate effect for a period of six weeks or until a hearing under paragraph 11 of the Act, whichever shall be earlier.

Councillor Townson re-joined the meeting at this point.

- (ii) The Panel heard an objection from Police Scotland and from the Service Lead – Legal and Licensing in relation to the application from James Main.

Decided: in the absence of the applicant, to continue consideration of this application to the meeting of this Panel scheduled to take place on 27 April 2023 when the outcome of the Court trial would be known; and to allow the applicant to attend the meeting in person.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.