GENERAL PURPOSES BOARD – 9 AUGUST 2017

General Purposes Board

Wednesday 9 August 2017 at 3pm

Present: Provost Brennan, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brooks, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, J McEleny, Moran and Quinn.

Chair: Councillor Dorrian presided.

In attendance: Mr D Keenan (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Ms L Carrick (Legal & Property Services), Inspector J MacDonald and Sergeant D McEwan, Police Scotland.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Board.

412 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Jackson.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended that the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 6 of Part I of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

413 Application for Taxi Driver's Licence – Aaron McBryde

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal and Property Services on an application for the grant of a Taxi Driver's Licence by Aaron McBryde following receipt of a letter of objection by Police Scotland.

Mr McBryde was present for this item together with Nigel Cummings, Advocacy Worker. The Board heard Inspector MacDonald in support of Police Scotland's objection and Mr McBryde in support of his application.

Following discussion, Councillor J McEleny moved that Mr McBryde's application be granted. As an amendment, Councillor Dorrian moved that Mr McBryde's application be refused.

On a vote, 2 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld and Crowther, voted for the motion and 4 Members, Councillors Brennan, Brooks, Curley and Quinn, voted for the amendment which was declared carried. Councillors MacLeod and Moran abstained from voting. **Decided:** that the application be refused.

414 Taxi Fares Review 2017

There was submitted a report by the Head of Legal & Property Services on the annual review of taxi fare scales for the purposes of advertisement as the first formal stage of the statutory process.

Mr J Bradley was present, representing the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services and Mr M Hambley was present, representing Invercive Taxis Ltd, ABC Taxis

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(Inverclyde) Limited and the Operators Liaison Group.

The Board heard Mr Hambley in support of the trade recommendations and Mr Bradley in respect of the submission by the Head of Environmental & Commercial Services.

Mr Keenan advised the Board that the additional requests made by the trade in their submission would be discussed at a future meeting of the Board and not as part of the Taxi Fares Review.

After discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that Tariff 3 should take effect from 10pm. As an amendment Councillor J McEleny moved that Tariff 3 remain at 11pm.

On a vote, 4 Members, Councillors Brennan, Crowther, Moran and Quinn, voted for the amendment and 4 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, Curley, Dorrian and MacLeod, for the motion.

There being equality in voting, the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was declared carried.

Members discussed the increase requested by the trade and, following discussion, Councillor Brooks moved that the flag fall remain the same for Tariffs 1, 2, 3 and 4 and that the proposal of a 6% reduction in yardage for the initial charge and subsequent charge for yardage be granted.

As an amendment, Councillor J McEleny moved that the reduction in yardage be in line with the consumer price index of 2.9%. On a vote Councillor Moran voted for the amendment and 7 Members, Councillors Ahlfeld, Brennan, Crowther, Curley, Dorrian, MacLeod and Quinn, voted for the motion which was declared carried.

Decided:

(1) that the flag fall charge be maintained, with a 6% reduction in yardage for the initial charge and subsequent charge for yardage for Tariffs 1, 2, 3 and 4;

(2) that Tariff 3 take effect from 10pm;

(3) that it be remitted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to arrange for public advertising of proposals at the first stage of the statutory process; and

(4) that consideration of the introduction of a discount structure of 3 year licences be referred to a future meeting of the Board.