

Minute of Meeting



General Purposes Committee

Date	Time	Venue
24 May 2016	2 pm	Council Chamber

Present:

Councillor Andrew Coventry (Chair)	Councillor Baxter
Councillor Bennett	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Johnstone	Councillor Milligan
Councillor Montgomery	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor Parry	Councillor Pottinger
Councillor Rosie	Councillor Russell
Councillor Wallace	Councillor Young

In attendance:

Alan Turpie	Legal Services Manager
Inspector Smith	Police Scotland
Verona MacDonald	Democratic Services Team Leader

1. Apologies

1.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Constable and de Vink.

2. Order of Business

2.1 The order of business was confirmed as outlined in the agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

3.1 Declarations of interest were intimated by Councillor Wallace in respect of Item No. 5.2 and Councillor Muirhead in respect of Item No. 6.2.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

4.1 On the Motion of Councillor Pottinger, seconded by Councillor Wallace, the Minutes of Meeting of 23 February 2016 were approved as a correct record.

5. Reports

Agenda No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.1	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 – Procedure for Disposal of Applications for Licences – Report by Director, Resources	Alan Turpie, Legal Services Manager

Outline of report and summary of discussion

There was submitted Report dated 10 May 2016, by the Director, Resources concerning the procedure for disposing of applications for licences in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Decision

To note the terms of the Report.

Action

No action required.

Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Wallace declared an interest and left the meeting.

Report No.	Report Title	Presented by:
5.2	Private Hire Car Licence – Request for Advertising – Report by Director, Resources	Alan Turpie, Legal Services Manager

Outline of report and summary of discussion

Alan Turpie spoke to the terms of the Report and advised that it related to an application lodged by Mr J. Campbell to fix advertising to the front and rear doors of 3 private hire cars licensed in his name. It was noted that, at present, advertising is not permitted on Private Hire Cars without the prior written consent of the Council with all such requests passed to Police Scotland for consultation. In response, Inspector Smith, on behalf of the Police had commented as follows:-

“I also deal with Edinburgh and West Lothian who both have pre-booked stickers. Both myself and the Taxi Examination Centre are in total agreement that these are advantageous to the safety of the public and to assisting the identification of the vehicles. West Lothian use a rectangular sign to distinguish them from Edinburgh’s oval sign and both Councils allow a similar shaped sign on the back with the booking office company name and number.

The only problem I have with Mr Campbell’s signage is that it is too similar to Edinburgh’s and would cause problems in identification and make it easier for vehicles to illegally carry out work fully outwith their own Council areas (Edinburgh and Midlothian).

I would therefore suggest that Midlothian Council consider a design and shape”.

Thereafter, discussion took place with Councillor Montgomery emphasising the importance of having a different shape of sign from neighbouring Councils and Councillor Imrie seeking confirmation that magnetic signs would not be permitted.

Decision

- (a) grant Mr Campbell’s request to fix advertising signs on the front and rear passenger doors subject to a condition that the signage be rectangular in shape and not magnetic and;
- (b) instruct a Report on the possible introduction of appropriate signage as a condition of Private Hire Car Licences, for consideration by the Committee in August 2016

Action

Director, Resources

Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Wallace returned to the meeting

Exclusion of Members of the Public

In view of the nature of the business to be transacted, the Committee agreed that the public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the undernoted items, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- 6.1 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence
- 6.2 Application for a Licence for Premises Used for the Booking of Hire Cars

The Meeting terminated at 2.25 pm.