

Minute of Meeting



General Purposes Committee

Date	Time	Venue
15 March 2022	10.00 am	Virtual via MS Teams

Present:

Councillor Munro (Chair)	Councillor Alexander
Councillor Cassidy	Councillor Hackett
Councillor Hardie	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Johnstone	Councillor McCall
Councillor McKenzie	Councillor Milligan
Councillor Parry	Councillor Russell
Councillor Smail	Councillor Wallace
Councillor Winchester	

In attendance:

Alan Turpie, Legal Services Manager / Monitoring Officer
Janet Ritchie, Democratic Services Officer
Andrew Henderson, Democratic Services Officer

1. Apology

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Curran, Councillor Muirhead and Councillor Lay- Douglas.

2. Order of Business

The order of business was as set out on the Agenda.

3. Declarations of interest

It was noted that Councillor Curran had submitted his apologies as due to his business interests he had declared an interest and therefore he would not be attending the meeting.

4. Minute of Previous Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 11 January 2022 was submitted and having been proposed by Councillor Imrie, seconded by Councillor Smail were unanimously approved as a correct record.

5. Public Reports

No.	Report	Presented by
5.1	Taxis and Private Hire Cars, Review of Tariffs	Alan Turpie
Outline of report and summary of discussion		
<p>The purpose of this report was to advise Members of the outcome of discussions with the Midlothian Taxi Operators Association (“MTOA”) on proposed amendments to the maximum tariffs which may be charged and to seek authority to put these proposed tariffs out to public consultation.</p> <p>Mr Turpie advised the Committee that the Council has a duty to review Taxi fares and that a request had been received from the Lothian Taxi Operators Association for taxi fares to be reviewed. He further advised on the process of this and that discussions had taken place with MTOA as an organization representative of taxis operating within Midlothian and if approved by the Committee today this would go out to public consultation, following consultation this would be referred back to the Committee for them to consider any objections and comments received and determine if they wished to increase the tariffs. He advised that the increase in fares were detailed within Appendix C and that this was the maximum level of fares that could be charged.</p> <p>He also advised that since the agenda has been issued further comments had been received with regards to this and this supports the importance of this going out to public consultation. He further advised on the process of the public consultation by sending out letters to the whole trade and also advertising through the Council’s website to get the views of the members of the public ensuring everyone is notified of this.</p>		

Councillor Hackett enquired as to the cost and how this was benchmarked and Mr Turpie confirmed this was benchmarked against other Lothian and Borders Authorities.

Thereafter the Committee agreed that the tariffs detailed within Appendix C would go out to public consultation.

Decision

The Committee considered that amended tariff levels for taxis and private cars with fitted taxi meters as detailed in Appendix C and agreed that these be put out to public consultation.

Action

Democratic Services/Legal Services

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 item, as contained in the Addendum hereto, as there might be disclosed exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3, 6 and 14 of Part I of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973:-

- 6.1 Grant of Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – H El-Helali
- 6.2 Grant of a Knife Dealer's Licence – Land Warrior Sports Ltd
- 6.3 Grant of a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – J Kay

The meeting terminated at 11.15 am