

Minute of Meeting



General Purposes Committee

Date	Time	Venue
19 June 2018	11.03 am	Council Chamber, Midlothian House, Buccleuch Street, Dalkeith

Present:

Councillor Smaill (Chair)	Councillor Alexander
Councillor Baird	Councillor Cassidy
Councillor Curran	Councillor Hackett
Councillor Hardie	Councillor Imrie
Councillor Johnstone	Councillor Lay-Douglas
Councillor Milligan	Councillor Muirhead
Councillor McCall	Councillor Munro
Councillor Russell	Councillor Wallace
Councillor Winchester	

In attendance:

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

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Order of Business

The Clerk advised that the order of business was as per the agenda circulated.

3. Declarations of interest

Councillor Curran indicated that he would be declaring an interest in the applications on the agenda relating to private hire car driver applications.

Furthermore, Councillor Curran advised that specification matters for taxi and/or private hire cars were a matter for the Committee to determine and not the Taxi Examination Centre who should also not be providing applicants with opinions because their responsibility was to inspect the vehicles in accordance with the conditions set down by the Committee. He made reference to a matter raised by the Legal Services Manager at the end of the last meeting of the Committee on 3 April 2018. He further advised that prior to additional matters being raised at meetings, Members should be given advance notification. In response, the Legal Services Manager, concurred with Councillor Curran's view relating to specification matters and advised that this was the reason the particular matter had been raised on 3 April. He apologised for the late notification of the matter to Members but explained that otherwise the applicant would have had to wait a minimum of another 6 weeks which he had considered was unfair..

The Chair then addressed the meeting with regard to a request by Councillor Muirhead at the last meeting as to whether the process adopted by the Committee could be streamlined in any way. He advised that whereas the process could not be shortened he was now aware that the procedure followed by the Committee is intimated to applicants in advance of the meeting and therefore he would not need to address this in detail with each applicant.

4. Minute of Meeting

The Minute of Meeting of 3 April 2018 was considered and approved. The Chair was thereafter authorised to sign the Minute as an accurate record of the meeting.

5. Public Reports

No Public Reports

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 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – G. Watson

6.2 Application for a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence – L Carr

The Meeting terminated at 11.48 am