

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

9.30am, Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Application for New Taxi Licence – 599 Scottaxis Ltd

Item number

Report number

Executive/routine

Wards

Citywide

Council Commitments

N/A

Executive Summary

An application for a new Taxi Licence has been received from 599 Scottaxis Ltd.

Should the committee decide to grant the licence, it would bring the total number of Taxi Licences in effect to 1,314.

Application for New Taxi Licence – 599 Scottaxis Ltd

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 After hearing from Council officers and the applicant, the committee is asked to:
 - 1.1.1 note from the previous Regulatory Committee decision on 16 March 2018 and the Interim Demand Survey considered by the Regulatory Committee on 21 October 2019 that there is presently no significant unmet demand for taxis in the city;
 - 1.1.2 note that on 7 January 2019 the Regulatory Committee agreed to leave unaltered the current limit of issued taxi licences at 1,316;
 - 1.1.3 note that there are currently 1,313 licences in effect and agree to grant the licence subject to a compliant vehicle being presented at the Taxi Examination Centre and passed as suitable for use as a taxi; and
 - 1.1.4 to determine any request for exemption to the policy on age and emissions as set out in paragraph 3.7 below.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Council has a policy of limiting the number of Taxi Licences issued within the city, utilising the powers available to it under Section 10 (3) of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This power can only be used if the Council is satisfied that there is no unmet 'significant demand' for taxis. The Council is required to keep this position under regular review.
- 2.2 This application is for the issue of one new Taxi Licence.
- 2.3 The Council's agreed taxi limitation policy applies, and that number remains at 1,316. There are currently 1,313 taxi licences issued and in effect.
- 2.4 The Committee should note that one further application for a taxi licence is on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Main report

Vehicle Limitation

- 3.1 In order to establish the current level of demand for taxis within the city, regular surveys are carried out to determine whether there is any significant unmet

demand. The last full demand survey was carried out by CH2M and was reported to the Regulatory Committee in March 2018. This survey concluded that there was no significant unmet demand.

- 3.2 Additional surveys were commissioned from Vector Consultancy. The most recent of these was completed in July 2019 and was reported to the Regulatory Committee on 21 October 2019. The committee agreed that there was no significant unmet demand.
- 3.3 The Regulatory Committee has previously resolved to limit the number of taxis at 1,316. There are currently 1,313 taxi licences issued and in effect. Members should note that grant of this application would increase the number of licensed taxis to 1,314, and that a further application for a new taxi licence is on the agenda for this meeting.

History

- 3.4 Taxi licence 599 was previously held by Mr Brian Keppie as far back as the Directorate's records exist. The most recent renewal of that licence was applied for in March 2020.
- 3.5 The licence holder Mr Keppie has unfortunately died, and an application for a new taxi licence has been received from 599 Scottaxis Ltd. Mr Keppie's daughter is listed as one of that company's directors.

Application

- 3.6 Committee members should be aware that the vehicle noted on the application form (Appendix 1) has been granted exemption from the Age and Emissions policy until 14 April 2021. That exemption only applied to the previous licence and therefore the committee will be required to determine, if so requested by the applicant, whether to agree a similar exemption for any new licence issued.

4. Measures of success

- 4.1 Not relevant, as decisions on individual licences have to be considered on their own merits.

5. Financial impact

- 5.1 The Council's scale of fees for licensing applications was approved with effect from 1 April 2018. The committee should note that the Licensing Refunds Policy will apply in this case, should the application be unsuccessful or be withdrawn.

6. Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact

- 6.1 The process outlined takes account of the relevant statutory provisions.

6.2 The applicant has a right of appeal against any decision made. The appeal lies to the Sheriff Court.

7. Equalities impact

7.1 There is no equalities impact arising from the contents of this report.

8. Sustainability impact

8.1 Any increase in the taxi fleet by increasing the number of licences issued may have an impact on the environment within the city, potentially including levels of pollution.

9. Consultation and engagement

9.1 None.

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 Report from CH2M (Regulatory Committee March 2018).

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11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 - Application for new Taxi Licence

11.2 Appendix 2 – Letter from Nisbets Solicitor and Solicitor Advocates dated 28 September 2020