

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

9.30am, Tuesday, 24 November 2020

Application for New Taxi Licence – Cronin 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 Cronin Taxis Ltd.

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

Andrew Mitchell

Regulatory Services Manager

Contact: Andrew Mitchell, Regulatory Services Manager

E-mail andrew.mitchell@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4208

Application for New Taxi Licence – Cronin 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
 - 1.1.4 decide whether to grant or refuse the new Taxi Licence application.

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.

History

- 3.4 This application from Cronin Taxis Ltd follows a previously refused application made by 959 Taxis Ltd. That application was refused in February 2020 as the committee found the director of 959 Taxis Ltd, Vanessa Cronin, not to not be a fit and proper person.
- 3.5 Whilst it is noted that the current application is made by a separate company with a named manager who was not named on the applications made by 959 Taxis Ltd, committee members may wish to note that the current applicant is understood to be closely connected to the previously refused applicant.
- 3.6 The committee may wish to seek assurances from the applicant in relation to the management of the vehicle and any potential involvement that Vanessa Cronin may have with the vehicle. .

Application

- 3.7 Committee members should note that the applicants do not currently have an appropriate vehicle for use as a taxi.

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).

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 - Application for new Taxi Licence

11.2 Appendix 2 – Letter from Nisbets Solicitor and Solicitor Advocates dated 5 February 2020