

Business bulletin

Regulatory Committee

9.00am, Monday, 18 January 2021

Microsoft Teams

Regulatory Committee

Convenor:	Members:	Contact:
<p>Councillor Catherine Fullerton</p>  <p>Vice-Convenor Councillor Denis Dixon</p> 	<p>Councillor Scott Arthur Councillor Susan Rae Councillor Cameron Rose Councillor Donald Wilson Councillor Max Mitchell Councillor Neil Ross Councillor Joanna Mowat</p>	<p>Rachel Gentleman, Committee Services 0131 529 4107</p> <p>Andrew Mitchell Regulatory Services Manager 0131 469 5822</p>

Recent News	Background
<p>Short Term Lets</p> <p>On 10 December 2020 the Scottish Government published a consultation analysis report detailing its response to comments received from a public consultation on the definition of short term lets, as well as proposals for a licensing scheme and planning control area.</p> <p>The legislative process has now commenced in the Scottish Parliament, with powers expected to come into force by Spring 2021, subject to parliamentary approval.</p> <p>The Local Government Committee of the Parliament is currently scrutinising the draft legislation.</p> <p>The licensing scheme will include a mandatory safety requirement that will cover every type of short term let. Local authorities will also have discretion to add further conditions to address local concerns and will be able to designate control areas to ensure that planning permission will be required for the change of use of whole properties to short term lets.</p> <p>The full report can be viewed here.</p>	<p>The Council has previously expressed strong concern about the impact of certain aspects of the short term letting industry on the city. The Council has previously agreed a position calling for additional regulation of the sector, through the introduction of a licensing system. The Scottish Government would be required to take action to introduce legislation to achieve the objective of additional regulation.</p>
<p>Taxi training</p> <p>The first Driver Skills Development Program: Foundation Course ran from 14 – 18 December 2020 with the final assessment on 21 December 2020.</p> <p>Eight participants included a mix of prospective taxi and PHC drivers. The seven participants who completed the full course all passed the final assessments.</p> <p>All training and the final assessment were delivered online, which worked well. Feedback has been very positive, with participants commenting that it was a good entry level course which covered an interesting range of topics. It is planned that courses will run regularly through 2021.</p>	<p>Taxi and PHC Training was due to start in Spring 2020, but this was not possible due to lockdown and the requirement to physically distance.</p> <p>Given the constraints created by the current situation, the need for an online solution and, in recognition that training for new taxi and PHC drivers should be a priority, the Regulatory Committee approved the introduction of a 'Foundation' training course.</p> <p>The training is aimed solely at new taxi and PHC drivers and provides an interim solution to replace the Edinburgh College Course. It covers all the core</p>

skills and knowledge required to enter the trade, with a focus on safety, quality of service, compliance with conditions and communication skills.

Age and emissions

Several outstanding applications for variation to licence conditions are being reviewed and assessed in line with the changes to policy made on 2 November 2020.

The table below gives an update on the number of applications for exemption to the policy which have been considered and resolved. The next 12 month update is due to be reported in May 2021.

Total Considered	Granted	Withdrawn	Refused	Continued
486	285	48	143	10

On 2 November 2020 the Regulatory Committee decided to make amendments to the Age and Emissions Policy for licensed vehicles.

Forthcoming activities:
