

Licensing Sub-Committee of the Regulatory Committee

9.30am, Tuesday, 22 October 2019

Application for New Taxi Licence – Tait/Brown

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 the partnership Tait/Brown. The death of the licence holder has resulted in the new application in order for family members to obtain a licence in order to keep the taxi in operation.

Application for New Taxi Licence

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 20 May 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; and to note that the Regulatory Committee is due to receive a further update on 21 October 2019; and
 - 1.1.3 note that there are currently 1,313 licences in force and agree to grant the licence subject to standard conditions and inspection of the vehicle.

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 as a result of the deaths of three individuals each holding a taxi licence.

3. Main report

- 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.
- 3.2 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.

- 3.3 Additional surveys were commissioned from Vector Consultancy. The most recent of these was completed in July 2019, and reported to the Committee on 21 October 2019. The Committee agreed that there was no significant unmet demand.
- 3.4 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. Whilst this is three fewer than the 1,316 limitation number, members will note that there is one further application to be considered at this committee and one further application to be considered at the November committee.
- 3.5 This application relates to a vehicle which was formerly licensed, and is made as a consequence of a bereavement.

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 renewal of Taxi Licence date stamped 15 March 2019)

11.2 Appendix 2 – email from Nisbets Solicitors and Solicitor Advocates dated 15 March 2019