

Regulatory Committee

9.00am, Monday 20 May 2019

Present

Councillors Fullerton (Convener), Burgess, Doran (substituting for Councillor Wilson), Dixon, Howie, Mitchell, Osler (substituting for Councillor Neil Ross) and Smith (substituting for Councillor Rose).

1. Age Limitation and Emissions Standards for Taxis and Private Hire Cars - Update

a) Deputation – Nisbet Solicitors on behalf of Taxi Licence Holders

The deputation asked the Committee for a review of the taxi condition made in March 2018 and coming into effect on 1 October 2018 in which Euro 5 Standard Vehicles might not be presented for Licensing after 1 October unless that Euro 5 vehicle was currently licensed as a taxi in Edinburgh.

The deputation felt that this condition did not have an obvious role in supporting the aim of improving air quality and appeared to have been introduced to deal with a perceived lowering of standards for which there was no evidence. They stressed that the condition prevented owners from upgrading vehicles as many were unable to buy brand new Euro 6 vehicles.

The deputation indicated that the removal of the condition would offer licence holders the option of replacing their lower standard emissions vehicles with those with a higher standard.

b) Report by the Executive Director of Place

The Committee had agreed to the introduction of a Taxi and Private Hire Cars Age Limitation and Emission Standards policy.

An update was provided on the implementation of the policy together with proposed changes to the policy.

Motion

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To support the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the report and agree that they would take effect from 1 July 2019.

- 3) To note the intention to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to approve exemptions to age and emissions policy in respect of owners retiring.
- 4) To instruct the Chief Executive to include this additional delegation in future drafts of the Council's Scheme of Delegation when submitted to Council for approval.
- 5) To agree the draft changes to policy and conditions.

- moved by Councillor Fullerton, seconded by Councillor Dixon

Amendment

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To support the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the report and agree that they would take effect from 1 July 2019.
- 3) To note the intention to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to approve exemptions to age and emissions policy in respect of owners retiring.
- 4) To instruct the Chief Executive to include this additional delegation in future drafts of the Council's Scheme of Delegation when submitted to Council for approval.
- 5) To agree the draft changes to policy and conditions with the exception that the current policy on the use of Euro 5 vehicles be retained.

Voting

The voting was as follows:

For the motion	-	5 votes
For the amendment	-	3 votes

(For the motion: Councillors Dixon, Fullerton, Howie, Mitchell and Smith.)

For the amendment: Councillors Burgess, Doran and Osler.)

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To support the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the report and agree that they would take effect from 1 July 2019.
- 3) To note the intention to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Place to approve exemptions to age and emissions policy in respect of owners retiring.
- 4) To instruct the Chief Executive to include this additional delegation in future drafts of the Council's Scheme of Delegation when submitted to Council for approval.

- 5) To agree the draft changes to policy and conditions.

(References – Regulatory Committee 16 March 2018 (item 2); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

2. Minutes

Decision

To approve the minute of the Regulatory Committee of 11 March 2019 as a correct record.

3. Rolling Actions Log

The Regulatory Committee Rolling Actions Log was submitted.

Decision

- 1) To agree to close Action 4 – Cinemas Act 1985 – Proposed Update to Licensing Conditions
- 2) To note the remaining outstanding actions.

(References – Regulatory Committee Rolling Actions Programme, submitted)

4. Business Bulletin

The Regulatory Committee Business Bulletin of 20 May 2019 was submitted.

Decision

To note the Business Bulletin.

(Reference – Business Bulletin, submitted)

5. Measures to Improve Taxi Examination Centre Efficiency and Improve Vehicle Safety

The Committee had asked the Executive Director of Place to provide a further report on the issue of missed appointments including measures to address this together with supporting statistical information on any financial impact.

Details were provided on measures considered necessary to improve the efficiency of the Taxi Examination Centre (TEC) and to improve the standards of vehicles presented for inspection which should then reduce the need for vehicle retests. It was felt that the approach should drive up the overall standard of vehicles operating on a daily basis, ensuring that they were safe, roadworthy and fit for purpose.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place and discharge previous remits from the Regulatory Committee on 7 January 2019.
- 2) To support the proposals outlined in paragraph 4.8 of the report and agree that they would take effect from 30 September 2019.

- 3) To agree the draft policy as outlined in the report.

(References – Regulatory Committee of 7 January 2019 (item 4); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

6. Demand for Taxis: Six Monthly Update

An interim update was provided on the most recent analysis of demand for taxis in the city which had been carried out by Vector Transport Consultancy in January 2019

Decision

- 1) To note the report from Vector Transport Consultancy as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report by the Executive Director of Place.
- 2) To note that on 12 March 2018, the Regulatory Committee had agreed to maintain the limitation policy and to fix the number of available licences at 1,316. This was last reviewed by the Committee when it considered a report on an interim survey of demand on 7 January 2019.
- 3) To agree that there was currently no evidence of significant unmet taxi demand and therefore to maintain the limit of 1,316 on the number of taxis licensed in the city.
- 4) To agree to use this survey as the basis for determining demand in any future applications for a taxi licence until the next taxi stance survey was completed.

(References – Regulatory Committee 7 January 2019 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)

7. Private Rented Housing Sector Enforcement Activities

Details were provided on the Private Rented Housing (PRH) sector Enforcement Activities for 2018/19, together with the proposed future initiatives and priorities. The initiatives aimed to drive up PRH standards, including consulting on a policy covering working with the Housing Repair Tribunal and requiring property owners to carry out improvement works.

Decision

- 1) To note the report by the Executive Director of Place and discharge previous remits from the Regulatory Committee on 26 June 2018.
- 2) To agree and support the identified initiatives and priorities for enforcement activities.
- 3) To agree the draft policy on improving repairs and working with the First Tier Tribunal for Scotland (Housing and Property Chamber).

(References – Regulatory Committee 7 January 2019 (item 6); report by the Executive Director of Place, submitted.)