

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 5 APRIL 2018

**THE OPEN GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, CARNOUSTIE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR TAXI STANCES**

REPORT BY SHEONA C HUNTER HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

This report seeks approval for the arrangements for temporary traffic stances for the duration of the Open Golf Championship in Carnoustie in July 2018.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) approve, in principle, and for consultation purposes the proposals as set out in the plans contained in Appendix 1 to this report and described herein,
- (ii) agree to delegate authority to the Service Leader – Legal and Democratic;
 - (a) to consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis operating in the area; and
 - (b) having regard to the outcome of that consultation exercise, to give notice to the Chief Constable and public notice of the proposal by advertisement; and
- (iii) note that any objections or representations received will be reported to the meeting of this Committee on 17 May 2018.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN

This report aligns with the Local Outcome – Communities that are prosperous and fair.

We have a sustainable economy with good employment opportunities.

3. BACKGROUND

Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 permits the Council to appoint and vary stances for taxis within their area.

The Open Golf Championship (“The Open”) takes place between 19 and 22 July 2018. Practice days run from 15 to 18 July.

The Open was last held in Carnoustie in 2007. The taxi and private hire arrangements agreed for this event were made by the Civic Licensing Committee at its meeting on 17 April 2007 (Report 388/07 refers).

4. PROPOSAL

There is currently one taxi stance in Carnoustie. This is located on Station Road and is shown coloured red in **APPENDIX 1** to this report. It is proposed that the use of this location be suspended for the duration of The Open as this is one of the main routes into the event.

The other plan on Appendix 1 shows the proposed arrangements for the duration of the event. This plan shows the creation of new stances along Links Avenue which would be one way only for the duration of the event (south to north). This would comprise (from south to north):-

- (i) The creation of a stance of two spaces for the dropping off and picking up of disabled passengers (coloured blue).
- (ii) The formation of two holding ranks for approximately 11 vehicles. Fares cannot be accepted whilst taxis are queuing in this area (coloured white).
- (iii) The formation of 1 rank at the north end of Links Avenue for 4 vehicles. This is where fares will be picked up from the top down (coloured green).

Committee will note that Links Avenue intersects with Kinloch Street. Kinloch Street is the route which the busses transporting visitors to visitor parking in the north of the town will use. There is a potential risk given that taxis moving from the holding rank to the picking up rank will have to cross Kinloch Street. Vehicles moving along Kinloch Street have right of way and the junction does have suitable stop and give way indicators.

Committee will also note, from the report in 2007, that there was a requirement for marshals to be in attendance for the duration of the Open in 2007. It is recommended that this is repeated for the event this year. The purpose of the marshals would be to:-

- (a) Manage the movement of taxis from the holding rank to the picking up rank;
- (b) Mitigate taxis picking up passengers in the holding rank or the disabled passenger drop off point (unless determined otherwise);
- (c) Mitigate vehicles not licensed in Angus queuing on the rank;
- (d) Supervising the disabled passenger drop off point; and
- (e) Generally ensuring the effective and efficient operation of arrangements.

Marshals would not be involved in managing traffic at the junction of Links Avenue and Kinloch Street, nor can they intervene in any disputes with the public.

It is considered that two or possibly three marshals should be in attendance during peak demand times, which is expected to be close of play particularly on Saturday and Sunday of the event. Marshals should be suitably attired and trained and, for safety and crime prevention and detection reasons, should be equipped with two way communication devices with the other marshals and personal body cameras.

Work is ongoing to finalise these arrangements. In 2007 that there was a charge made for allowing non local taxis and private hire vehicles to enter the area which was offset against the cost of employing marshals. Attempts are being made to consult with the trade and the outcome of consultation exercises will be presented to the meeting of this Committee on 17 May 2018.

Section 19 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 requires that, before the Council can alter the position of a stance, it must consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis operating in the area; and

- (i) give notice to the Chief Constable; and
- (ii) give public notice of the proposal by advertisement in at least one newspaper circulating in their area and shall take into consideration any objections or representations in respect of such proposal which may be made to them in writing within 28 days of the first publication of such notice.

Post the event the situation will revert to the existing situation with the stance on Station Road.

It is recommended that the Committee approve, in principle, and for consultation purposes, the proposals as set out in the plans contained in Appendix 1 to this report and described herein, delegate authority to the Service Leader – Legal and Democratic to consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or to be representative of, the operators of taxis operating in the area; and, having regard to the outcome of that consultation exercise, to give notice to the Chief Constable and public notice of the proposal by advertisement, and report any objections or representations received to the meeting of this Committee on 17 May 2018.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be costs associated with the employment of marshals as described herein which may be offset by charges levied to operators for the use of the stances. Full details of these costs and how any shortfall might be met will be contained within the report to be submitted to the meeting of this Committee on 17 May 2018.

NOTE: No background papers as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing this report.

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