

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 16 SEPTEMBER 2021

TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE – MEMBER OFFICER WORKING GROUP

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to consider establishing a Member Officer Working Group to review the licensing system and including the fees charged for taxi and private hire vehicle and operator licences.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:-

- (i) agrees to establish a Member Officer Working Group to review the system of licensing taxi and private hire driver and operator licences to be known as the Taxi and Private Hire Member Officer Working Group;
- (ii) agrees that the remit of the Taxi and Private Hire Member Officer Working Group is to:-
 - (a) engage with the trade to discuss and consider concerns arising,
 - (b) assess the current processes, procedures and systems in place and including the fees charged for taxi and private hire driver and operator licences,
 - (c) identify improvements and efficiencies which would assist both the Council and the trade; and
 - (d) provide transparency in respect of the fees charged by the Council in respect of taxi and private hire driver and operator licences.
- (iii) determine the number of members of this Committee that will participate in the work of the Group; and
- (iv) determine the membership of the Group having regard to Standing Order 32(4) of the Council's Standing Orders, and the need to, so far as possible, give effect to the principles regarding "political balance".

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This Committee, at its meeting on 12 August 2021, considered a report in respect of the fees to be charged in respect of taxi and private hire driver and operator licences. Having considered the terms of the report, this Committee agreed (amongst other things): -

- “(v) that a member officer working group be established and that a Report on this matter be submitted to this Committee on 16 September 2021 detailing the remit of the group.”

3. REPORT

- 3.1 It is proposed that a member officer working group be established which will be known as the Taxi and Private Hire Member Officer Working Group.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the remit of the Group will be to:-
- (i) engage with the taxi and private hire trade to discuss and consider concerns arising,
 - (ii) assess the current processes, procedures and systems in place,
 - (i) identify improvements and efficiencies which would assist both the Council and the trade; and
 - (ii) provide transparency in respect of the fees charge by the Council in respect of taxi and private hire driver an operator licences.
- 3.3 It is proposed that relevant Council officers will attend the Working Group as and when required. In terms of membership of the Working Group from this Committee, the Committee is asked to determine the number of members that will participate in the Working Group. Standing Order 32(4) of the Council's Standing Orders provides that in appointing members to committees the Council, "shall, so far as possible" shall give effect to the principles regarding "political balance". The following examples are provided in respect of the required political balance:-

<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Admin</u>	<u>SNP</u>	<u>Non-Aligned</u>
4	2	1	1
6	3	2	1
7	4	2	1

- 3.4 Once established, an initial meeting of the Working Group will be convened to consider and agree a Work Plan, timescales for future meetings and reporting the work of the Working Group to this Committee.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The legal implications are contained in the body of this report.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Any costs associated with meetings of the proposed Member Officer Working Group will be allocated to taxi and private hire driver and operator expenditure.

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