

ANGUS COUNCIL

CIVIC LICENSING COMMITTEE – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND CHANGE

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Committee in respect of progress in assessing and addressing unmet need for wheelchair accessible taxi and private hire cars and vehicles.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee: -

- (i) note that the recommendation moved and approved at the meeting of the Civic Licensing Committee on 20 February 2020, to appoint consultants to assess and advise on the extent and nature of unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus and to recommend measures to the Committee to address unmet need, has not yet been implemented;
- (ii) note that on the designated list for Angus there are currently nine vehicles declared as wheelchair accessible vehicles;
- (iii) reaffirm the commitment to engage external consultants to assess and advise on the extent and nature of unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus and to recommend measures to address assessed unmet need;
- (iv) instruct the Director of Legal, Governance and Change to:
 - (a) seek updated quotations from external consultants to undertake work to assess and advise on the extent and nature of unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus and to recommend to the Committee measures to address assessed unmet need; and
 - (b) thereafter, to appoint a consultant to undertake this work; and
- (v) note that a report, including the assessment and recommendations of the consultant, will be put before Committee for consideration in due course.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 In February 2020, the Committee considered [Report 62/20](#) in respect of wheelchair accessible vehicles. This report advised members of previous reports and progress made in respect of this matter.

2.2 Having considered the terms of that report, the Committee agreed to:-

- (i) note the motion moved and approved at the meeting of Angus Council at its meeting on 5 December 2019;
- (ii) note the response received from Ash Denham MSP, Minister for Community Safety at the Scottish Government;

- (iii) note that steps were being taken to advise taxi and private hire operators in Angus of the interest free loans available through the Energy Savings Trust and funded by Transport Scotland;
- (iv) approve the appointment of consultants to assess and advise on the extent and nature of unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus and to recommend to the Committee measures to address assessed unmet need; and
- (v) note that a progress Report would be submitted to the Committee in due course.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 Due to the COVID pandemic and post pandemic changes/reduction of staff within Legal Team 1, officers have not been able to implement the decision of Members made in February 2020 for a consultant to be appointed. As a result of the local government elections in May 2022, this Committee has a new membership. It is considered appropriate for Members to re-consider this matter due to the time that has passed.
- 3.2 Given historic investigations and the current small number of vehicles on the designated list, it would appear that there remains an unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus. Committee is asked to reaffirm the commitment to engage external consultants to assess and advise on the extent and nature of unmet need for wheelchair accessible vehicles in Angus and to recommend measures to address assessed unmet need and to delegate the tasks for seeking updated quotations and the appointment of a consultant to undertake this work to the Director of Legal, Governance and Change.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Engaging external advisers will represent a cost to the Council. Previous estimates from 2020 are provided for Members consideration at **Appendix 1** to this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment (EIA) is not required as the report is technical.

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Appendix 1 - Exempt