

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE – 24TH JANUARY, 2019
REPORT ON: TAXI LIAISON GROUP - ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP
REPORT BY: HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC AND LEGAL SERVICES
REPORT NO: 56-2019

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To advise the Committee of the review of membership of the Taxi Liaison Group and to seek the Committee's approval of those entitled to membership as a result.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:-

2.1 One representative from each office and organisation listed below shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Taxi Liaison Group;

- (i) Dundee Private Hire (203020) Ltd;
- (ii) Dundee 505050 Ltd;
- (iii) Dundee Taxi Association;
- (iv) Handy Taxis;
- (v) Tay Taxis;
- (vi) Dundee City Taxi Drivers Association;
- (vii) Dundee Electric Taxi Association;

2.2 The Committee consider whether there is a good reason why these offices and organisations listed below should be entitled to attend meetings of the Taxi Liaison Group notwithstanding that they do not meet the requirements for membership.

- (i) Dundee Taxis Ltd;
- (ii) Stobswell Cabs Ltd;

2.3 The Committee consider whether there is a good reason why the undernoted offices and organisations should be entitled to attend meetings of the Taxi Liaison Group notwithstanding that they have not provided the requested information to confirm whether or not they meet the requirements for membership.

- (i) Unite the Union;
- (ii) GMB Union;
- (iii) Dundee Hackney Association;
- (iv) RMT Union;

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

4.1 The Committee, at its meeting on 29th March, 2018, requested officers to prepare a report concerning the membership and composition of the Taxi Liaison Group. This was as a result of an application for membership from a new organisation and also a number of concerns raised by existing members regarding the lack of any criteria for becoming a member which has resulted in the number of members increasing to the point where Group discussions are too fragmentary owing to the range of interests represented.

4.2 There is no legal obligation on a licensing authority to maintain a standing group such as the Taxi Liaison Group for consultation with members of the trade. The only legal obligation regarding consultation with the taxi trade relates to the annual fares review under Section 17 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982. This requires the Council to "consult with persons or organisations appearing to them to be, or be representative of, the operators of

taxis operating within their area". Even in that regard, it is left to each individual licensing authority to determine whom those persons are and there is no statutory guidance as to how this is to be established. Enquiries with other Scottish local authorities have shown that very few have consultation groups which meet on a regular basis and none of them appear to have any hard and fast rules as to entitlement to membership. Again, it is a matter for each individual authority.

- 4.3 At its meeting on 2nd August 2018, the Committee set minimum criteria for membership of the Group as 60 members from trade associations and 39 for taxi and private hire offices. Officers were instructed to write to all offices and organisations seeking membership to request a list of their members in order that this could be established. The responses are summarised in the table at APPENDIX 1 to this report.
- 4.4 As can be seen from the responses, 7 offices and organisations (Dundee Private Hire Ltd (203020); Dundee 505050 Ltd; Handy Taxis; Tay Taxis; Dundee City Taxi Drivers Association; Dundee Taxi Association and Dundee Electric Taxi Association) meet the criteria for membership and have provided details of these members to enable this to be confirmed. These organisations are, therefore, recommended for approval as members of the Group.
- 4.5 Of the remaining 6 offices and organisations, 2 (Dundee Taxis Ltd and Stobswell Cabs) have provided lists of their members, but these numbers fall short of the minimum number set by the Committee for membership of the Group. The other 4 have not provided lists of their members. Unite the Union and the GMB Union have cited data protection reasons why lists have not been provided, although the number of members (294 and 83 respectively) would otherwise entitle them to membership. Dundee Hackney Association has also mentioned data protection as a reason for non-production of a list of members, but have also failed to disclose how many members they have. RMT Union have offered no reason for not providing a list and have given no notification of the number of members. The Committee are asked to consider whether there is nevertheless a good reason why these offices and organisations should be admitted to membership of the Taxi Liaison Group. Each has been invited to address the Committee in this regard if so desired.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainable Development, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATION

The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

Roger Mennie
Head of Democratic and Legal Services

DATE: 21st January, 2019

APPENDIX 1

Taxi Liaison Group Membership Criteria

No	Name of Association/Office and Contact	Lists Returned	No of Drivers	No of Operators	Meet Criteria
1	Scott Walker Dundee 50505 Ltd	YES	-	40	YES
2	Erik Thoresen Dundee Hackney Association	NO	-	-	-
3	Bill Rattray Dundee Private Hire (203020) Ltd	NO	-	-	-
4	Graeme Stephen Dundee Taxi Association	YES	32	34	YES
5	George Scullion Dundee Taxis Ltd	YES	14	-	NO
6	Doug Inglis Handy Taxis	YES	-	320	YES
7	Charles Duthie Tay Taxis	YES	-	47	YES
8	Chris Elder Unite the Union	NO	234	-	-
9	Qaiser Habib Dundee City Taxi Drivers Association	YES	98	44	YES
10	Ryan Todd Dundee Electric Taxi Association	YES	66	-	YES
11	George Harris Stobswell Cabs Ltd	YES	-	9	NO
12	William Lees RMT Union	NO	-	-	-
13	Vicki Leonard GMB Union	NO	83	-	-