

THE FIFE COUNCIL - REGULATION AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

Conference Room 2, Ground Floor, Fife House, North Street, Glenrothes

9 September 2025

9.30 am – 1.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Tom Adams (Convener), Patrick Browne, Margaret Kennedy, Louise Kennedy-Dalby, Carol Lindsay, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, John O'Brien, Nicola Patrick, Jonny Tepp and Darren Watt.

ATTENDING: Steven Paterson, Legal Team Manager, Kimberley Langley, Solicitor, Craig Ritchie, Civic Government Licensing Enforcement Officer and Emma Whyte, Committee Officer, Finance and Corporate Services; Billy Ferguson, Service Manager – Fleet Services, Roads and Transportation Services; and Sergeant Neil Ewing, Police Scotland (Fife Division).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Alistair Cameron and Gordon Pryde.

Prior to the start of business, the Convener intimated the intention to consider the Taxi Fare Scale Review 2025 report following consideration of all other agenda items.

221. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order No. 22.

222. MINUTE

The committee considered the minute of the meeting of Regulation and Licensing Committee of 12 August 2025.

Decision

The committee approved the minute.

223. TAXI FARE SCALE REVIEW 2025

The committee considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services on the Taxi Fare Scale Review 2025/26.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the representations received from taxi operators contained in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) agreed an increase of 5% on Stage 1 fares and 10% on Stage 2 fares only;
- (3) agreed that fees for Extra Charges would be considered during the next review of fares;

- (4) delegated authority to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to publish the revised scales to:-
 - (i) set out the proposed scales;
 - (ii) explain the effect of the proposed scales;
 - (iii) propose a date on which the proposed scales would come into effect; and
 - (iv) invite representations in writing until the relevant date.
- (5) noted that the Head of Legal and Democratic Services would prepare a further report on any such representations received by the council for the consideration of the committee or, in the absence of any such representations, fix the scales and give further notice in accordance with the Act with delegation to set out, and explain the effect of, the scales as fixed and to set the date on which the scales as fixed would come into effect.

224. TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR INSPECTION TESTS – KIRKCALDY ZONE

The committee considered a report by the Service Manager, Fleet Operations on annual inspection tests carried out on vehicles in the Kirkcaldy zone in July and August 2025.

Decision

The committee:-

- (1) noted the report; and
- (2) agreed that operators who failed the annual inspection test be asked to attend a planned Annual Taxi Inspection Test meeting on 15 September 2025.

APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH POLICE COMMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE

The committee considered the following applications for licences having heard the representative for Police Scotland (Fife Division) and the applicants.

225. IAN OVENDEN (IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (NEW APPLICATION) - 1 YEAR

Decision

The committee agreed to grant the licence with a warning.

226. KYLE TAYLOR (NOT IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (NEW APPLICATION) - 1 YEAR

Decision

The committee agreed to refuse the licence as the applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person due to information received from Police Scotland.

227. NAIM HASAN (IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (RENEWAL) - 3 YEARS

Decision

The committee agreed to refuse the licence as the applicant was not considered to be a fit and proper person due to information received from Police Scotland.

The committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public and press from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

228. GREG MCCOLL (IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (RENEWAL) - 1 YEAR

Decision

The committee agreed to grant the licence with a warning.

229. PARVINDER SINGH (IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (NEW APPLICATION) - 3 YEARS

Motion

Councillor Lindsay, seconded by Councillor Browne, moved that the licence be granted with a warning.

Amendment

Councillor MacDiarmid, seconded by Councillor Patrick, moved that the licence be refused on the grounds that the applicant was not considered a fit and proper person.

Roll Call Vote

For the Motion – 7 votes

Councillors Tom Adams, Patrick Browne, Margaret Kennedy, Carol Lindsay, Donald Lothian, John O'Brien and Jonny Tepp.

For the Amendment – 4 votes

Councillors Louise Kennedy-Dalby, David MacDiarmid, Nicola Patrick and Darren Watt.

Having received a majority of votes, the motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The committee agreed to grant the licence with a warning.

230. ANDREI BRASTAS (NOT IN ATTENDANCE) - TAXI DRIVER (NEW APPLICATION) - 1 YEAR

Decision

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The committee agreed to continue consideration of this application to afford the applicant a further opportunity to appear.