

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENCING PANEL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2005 AT 1000 HOURS IN MEETING ROOM , COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Raymond, D Coffey, Cree, Weir, Wilson, Smith, Menzies, N McGhee and Stewart.

ATTENDING: Bill Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; David Mitchell, Head of Administration and Legal Services; Alison Smith, Licencing and Community Safety Manager; and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGY: Councillor Macrae.

CHAIR: Councillor Jim Raymond, Chair

REVIEW OF POLICY REGARDING THE PROVISION OF WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE VEHICLES FOR USE AS TAXIS

1. There was submitted a report dated 12 January 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which invited the Panel to review the previous policy decision of the Licencing Sub-Committee of the Community Services Committee, as subsequently amended by the Licencing Panel, to require all vehicles operating as Taxis within East Ayrshire to be wheelchair accessible by 1 May 2005.

Having heard the Head of Administrative and Legal Services clarifying the Legal Position, it was agreed:-

- (i) that by May 2006, 25% of the vehicles licenced as taxis in each of the North and South Zones, be capable of carrying a wheelchair user so that the occupant can complete the journey in their wheelchair;
- (ii) that if the Taxi Trade failed to meet the target detailed in (i) above, sufficient additional Taxi Operators' Licences (having a condition attached that the vehicle must comply with the standard set out in (i) above) be issued to bring the percentage up to 25%;
- (iii) that the policy be further reviewed by the Licencing Panel in January 2006;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services communicate the decision as detailed in (i), (ii) and (iii) above, to the taxi trade and appropriate user groups; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1040 hours.