

Cunninghame House, Irvine.

16 February 2017

Licensing Committee

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the above mentioned Committee of North Ayrshire Council to be held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on **WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2017** at **10.00 a.m.** to consider the undernoted business.

Yours faithfully

Elma Murray

Chief Executive

Please note that, whilst the items on this Agenda are public documents, consideration of some reports at the meeting may necessitate the passing of a resolution to exclude from the meeting the press and public in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

1. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any declarations of interest in respect of items of business on the Agenda.

2. Minutes (Page 5)

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2017 will be confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (copy enclosed).

- 3. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: Licensing Matters (Page 11)
 Submit report by the Chief Executive on hearings to be determined and applications for the grant or renewal of licences and permits, all in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (copy enclosed).
- 4. Landlord Registration under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, Part 8 (Page 21)

Submit report by the Chief Executive on Landlord Registration matters (copy enclosed).

5. Urgent items

Any other items which the Chair considers to be urgent.

Licensing Committee

Sederunt:	Ronnie McNicol (Chair) Tom Marshall (Vice Chair) Robert Barr John Bruce John Easdale Grace McLean Catherine McMillan Alan Munro Donald Reid Robert Steel	Chair: Attending:
		Apologies:
		Meeting Ended:

Licensing Committee 11 January 2017

IRVINE, 11 January 2017 - At a Meeting of the Licensing Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.00 a.m.

Present

Ronnie McNicol, Robert Barr, Catherine McMillan, Donald Reid and Robert Steel.

Also Present

W. O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing), and A. Toal, Administrative Assistant; P. Brennan, Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Noise) (Economy and Communities); and M. Anderson, Committee Services Team Leader (Chief Executive's Service).

In Attendance

Inspector B. Skimming and Sergeant G. Griffiths (Police Scotland).

Chair

Councillor McNicol in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bruce, John Easdale, Tom Marshall, Grace McLean and Alan Munro.

1. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 14 December 2016 was confirmed, and the Minutes were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

2. Exclusion of the Public

The Committee resolved, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, to exclude from the Meeting, the press and the public for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 50J of and Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1983.

The 'Exempt Information' concerned is that described in Section 7A, Paragraph 14 ("Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime").

3. Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: Licensing Matters

Part A: Hearings

3.1 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/00233 (New) - Piotr Stachowski

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was present.

Members asked questions and received clarification from the applicant with regard to the background to the Hearing.

Decision

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor McMillan, moved that the application be granted in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for a period of one year. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

3.2 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/00238 (New) - Bryan John Lindsay

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was present and represented by a friend. Representatives of Police Scotland were also in attendance.

The Solicitor (Licensing) set out the background to the Hearing as previously intimated in writing to the applicant. The representatives of Police Scotland then addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out an objection to the application. Thereafter, the applicant and his representative addressed the Committee on the issues raised and responded to questions.

The applicant, the applicant's representative and representatives of Police Scotland then withdrew to allow the Committee to deliberate, returning to hear the Committee's decision.

Decision

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor McMillan, moved that the application be granted in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for a period of one year.

As an amendment, Councillor Barr, seconded by Councillor Steel, moved that the application be refused on the grounds that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a Taxi Driver's Licence.

On a division, there voted for the amendment 3 and for the motion 2, and the amendment was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to refuse the application in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(c) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 on the grounds set out in Paragraph 5(3)(a)(ii) of the Schedule, that the applicant is not a fit and proper person to be the holder of a Taxi Driver's Licence.

3.3 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/00675 (New) - William Hamilton

The Committee, at its meeting on 14 December 2016, agreed, on the basis of the information presented, to proceed to a Hearing in terms of Paragraph 4 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The applicant, having been duly cited to attend, was present. Representatives of Police Scotland were also in attendance.

The Committee considered the background information provided, including the terms of a letter from the applicant confirming the reinstatement of his driving licence by the DVLA. The representatives of Police Scotland addressed the Committee on the terms of a letter setting out an representation in respect of the application. Thereafter, the applicant addressed the Committee on the issues raised.

Decision

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Barr, moved that the application be granted in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for a period of one year. There being no amendment, the motion was declared carried.

3.4 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/01780 - John Swindle

The Committee, at its meeting on 14 December 2016, agreed, on the basis of the information presented, to proceed to a Hearing in terms of Paragraph 11(7) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The licence-holder, having been duly cited to attend, was not present or represented. Representatives of Police Scotland were in attendance.

The Solicitor (Licensing) set out the background to the Suspension Hearing and advised Members that clarification required to be sought on the applicant's current address.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to continue consideration of the Hearing to a future meeting.

3.5 Public Entertainment and Indoor Sports Licence: PEL/457 and ISEL/017 - KA Leisure Limited

KA Leisure Limited have applied in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to vary their Public Entertainment and Indoor Sports Licences in respect of the Portal and Townhouse, Irvine, to amend the terminal hour from 10.00 p.m. to include periodic extension of hours in evening to 1.00 a.m. in order to host events such as weddings, parties, exhibitions, Burns Suppers, displays, sportsmen's dinners, civic receptions, Marymass events, etc.

A representative of the licence-holder, having been duly cited to attend, was present. The Council's Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Noise) was also in attendance.

The Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Noise) addressed the Committee on the terms of an Environmental Health representation recommending that noise from the operation of the facility should not exceed 86 dB(A) and that the matter should be reviewed in six months to allow Environmental Health to monitor the operation. A representative of the licence-holder confirmed that the facility would be managed to reduce noise as far as practicable and that its officers would work with Environmental Health to mitigate any noise nuisance which arose.

Members asked questions and received clarification from the representative of the licence-holder and the Specialist Environmental Health Officer (Noise).

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed to (a) grant the two variation applications in terms of Paragraph 10 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 and (b) to review the operation of the licensed facility within a period of six months following monitoring of the operation of the facility by the Council's Environmental Health Service, to determine whether or not the licences should be further varied.

Part B: Applications for the Grant/Renewal of Licences

3.6 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/00240 (New) - Christopher John Kyle

The Committee unanimously agreed to grant the application in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for a period of one year.

3.7 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/02011 (New) - Kevin James Marting

The Committee unanimously agreed to grant the application in terms of Paragraph 5(1)(a) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 for a period of one year.

Part C: Issues in Respect of an Existing Licence

3.8 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/1642 - Thomas Bagan

The Committee unanimously agreed, of the basis of the information presented, to proceed to a Hearing in terms of Paragraph 11 (7) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

4. Landlord Registration under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, Part 8.

The Solicitor (Licensing) advised the Committee that this report had been withdrawn in the absence of any Landlord Registration matters to be considered.

Noted.

5. Urgent Item

5.1 Taxi Driver's Licence: TDL/1892 - Ali Malak

The Committee was advised of receipt the circumstances surrounding a late application for renewal of Taxi Driver's Licence TDL/1892.

Decision

The Committee unanimously agreed that to treat the application lodged as it was an Application for Renewal of a Licence, in terms of Paragraph 8(5A) of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

The Meeting ended at 11.10 a.m.

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 3

22 February 2017

Licensing Committee

Title:	Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982: Licensing Matters
Purpose:	To advise the Committee of (a) Hearings to be determined; (b) applications for the grant or renewal of licences and permits; and (c) issues arising in respect of existing licences, all in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.
Recommendation:	That the Committee considers and determines the matters before it.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the Council, as Licensing Authority, requires to determine issues in respect of the grant, renewal or suspension of licences.
- 1.2. A meeting of a local authority is open to the public except to the extent that they are excluded (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) under:
 - (a) the rule about 'confidential information' (as defined) or
 - (b) by Resolution.

(Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Section 50A, and especially Subsection 50A(4)).

1.3. Under the Resolution procedure, the Committee is entitled to resolve to exclude from the Meeting the press and the public for any one or more items of business on the grounds that otherwise "Exempt Information" of any type described in Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Act might be disclosed.

- 1.4. The types of "Exempt Information" which may arise during Committee business include those described in Paragraphs 14 and 15 of that Schedule:
 - 14. "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."
 - 15. "The identity of a Protected Informant" (where "Protected Informant" is defined in Part III to mean a person who informs the Local Authority about a past, present or future crime, breach of statutory duty, breach of planning control, or nuisance.)
- 1.5. Such a Resolution, once made, continues until the end of the Meeting unless the Committee earlier Resolves to revoke it.

2. Background

Appendix A:

Licences where Hearings have been convened;

Appendix B:

Applications for the grant or renewal of licences and permits

Appendix C:

Issues in respect of existing licences.

3. Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that the Committee considers and determines each of the listed cases in accordance with the required procedures.

4. Implications

Financial:	There are possible financial implications in relation to the refusal of any application.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	There are possible legal implications in relation to
	the refusal of any application.
Equality:	An "Equality Impact Assessment" is not necessary as the Equality Act 2010 is not a consideration in
	making a Licensing decision.
Environmental &	None
Sustainability:	
Key Priorities:	An effective licensing system, e.g. monitoring the 'fit and proper' status of hire-car drivers and the safety of their cars, helps achieve one of the "High Level Outcomes" of the "NAC Community Planning Partnership Single Outcome Agreement 2013-17": "A Safe and Secure North Ayrshire".
Community Benefits:	Not applicable, as the Report does not relate to
	tendering or procurement exercises.

5. Consultation

5.1 Consultations have been undertaken with Police Scotland, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, and the appropriate Council Services.

ELMA MURRAY Chief Executive

Elva Murray

Reference: PAT

For further information please contact William O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing)

on 01294 324305

Background Papers

None

Hearings		
Suspension Hearing 1	Taxi Driver's Licence	TDL/01642
Licenceholder & Address	Thomas Bagan 68 Peden Avenue Dalry KA24 4BD	
Suspension Hearing 2	Taxi Driver's Licence	TDL/01780
Licenceholder & Address	John Swindle 33 Gigha Terrace Irvine KA11 1DJ	
Hearing 3	Taxi Driver's Licence	TDL/01956 (Renewal)
Applicant & Address	Robert Boyd 68 Dirrans Terrace Kilwinning KA13 7PJ	
Hearing 4	Taxi Operator's Licence	TL/179 (Substitute Vehicle)
Licenceholder & Address	Andrew Spence 12 Finnie Terrace Springside Irvine KA11 3BB And Craig Spence 1 Bute Court Dreghorn KA11 4JW	

Applications for the grant/renewal of licences	
MDL/059 (New)	Craig Neil 84 Craigie Way Ayr KA8 0HJ
TDL/01082 (Renewal)	Paul Scott 103B McKinlay Crescent Irvine KA12 8DR

Issues in respect of Existing Licences		
TDL/01355 & TL/194	Michael Ferguson 51 Hunter Drive Irvine KA12 9BP	
STL/O/414	Neil McIntyre 18 Dalgarven Wynd Kilwinning KA13 6DD	

NORTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Agenda Item 4

22 February 2017

Licensing Committee

Title:	Landlord Registration under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, Part 8
Purpose:	To inform the Committee of Landlord Registration matters.
Recommendation:	That the Committee should decide whether or not to make a Resolution excluding the public from the meeting at which this Report and its Schedules is to be considered;
	For each Application or Review Proposal described in the Schedules: That the Committee should consider each case and:
	 a. decide whether or not the Application should be granted, or the Relevant Person should be removed from the Register;
	b. if appropriate, decide whether or not to issue a Notice under Section 94 (commonly known as a 'Rent Penalty Notice') in respect of any house, or to delegate authority to the Clerk to issue such a Notice.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Licensing Committee have delegated authority from the Council to administer the Council's functions under the Landlord Registration Scheme regulated by the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004, Part 8.
- 1.2 The persons named in the attached Schedules are either:
 - Applicants for Registration, or
 - already Registered under the 2004 Act, or
 - are not Registered.

Each person has one Schedule. The rented houses concerned are listed in the Schedules.

Although the scheme under the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004 is described as "Landlord Registration", it is the fact that living accommodation is occupied that is important, not the question of whether or not a formal Lease has been entered into or rent paid or the occupier has the formal status of "tenant". The Act applies to both (i) a Lease and (ii) an Occupancy Arrangement, and most of the laws relating to rented housing also apply as much to occupiers as tenants.

For convenience, in this Report:

- (a) Applicants seeking Registration, and
- (b) people who are already Registered ("Registered Persons"), and
- (c) people who own houses occupied as residences,

are called "Landlords" and the occupiers are called "Tenants".

Exempt Information

- 1.3 Landlord Registration cases are referred to the Committee using two documents:
 - (a) this Report, and
 - (b) one or more Schedules.
- 1.4 This is done because the Committee may consider that the cases involve "Exempt Information" under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Schedule 7A, so that information about the cases should not be disclosed to the public. The Committee are entitled, but not obliged, to make a Resolution excluding the public from a meeting during consideration of an item of business whenever it is likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during consideration of that item of business there would be disclosure to them of "Exempt Information" (Section 50A(4)).
- 1.5 Since the Committee have frequently made the necessary Resolution in the past, it is permissible for future Schedules to be withheld from publication. Although a Committee's Agenda and connected Reports are generally to be made public (Section 50B(1)), publication of the Schedules to this Report (but not the Report itself) has been withheld under Section 50B(2), as the proper officer has the opinion that they relate to items during consideration of which the Meeting is likely not to be open to the public, i.e. that the Committee are likely to make a Resolution to exclude the public during consideration of the Schedules.

- 1.6. Accordingly, individual cases do not appear on the public agenda. The Report operates as a 'front page', and only appears once, regardless of how many individual cases are being referred to the Committee. The Report is general and sets out the legal structure. The Schedules detail the alleged facts of the particular cases and how the legislation appears to apply.
- 1.7. Depending on the circumstances of the individual case, the Schedules contain:
 - (a) information about the Landlord's criminal convictions or their prosecution; and/or
 - (b) information that suggests that he is not a 'fit and proper' person by reason of his conduct in relation to alleged Anti-Social Behaviour; and/or
 - information that suggests that he is not a 'fit and proper' person by reason of his breach of the legal obligations on Landlords; and/or
 - information about conduct involving nuisance or crime (whether or not there have been any criminal Court proceedings).
- 1.8. The information is covered by one or other or both of the following categories of "Exempt Information" under Schedule 7A:
 - Paragraph 14: "Any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime."
 - Paragraph 15: "The identity of a Protected Informant."
- 1.9. "Protected informant" is defined in Part III of the Schedule and means:
 - "a person giving the Local Authority information which tends to show that—
 - (a) a criminal offence,
 - (b) a breach of statutory duty,
 - (c) a breach of planning control, within the meaning of section 123(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, or
 - (d) a nuisance.

has been, is being or is about to be committed".

- 1.10. For example, Paragraph 15 would apply where it was alleged:
 - (a) that there was anti-social behaviour committed by the Tenant of a rented house, involving crime or nuisance, or
 - (b) that the state of repair of the rented house indicated that the Landlord had defaulted in his legal obligations, or
 - (c) that the Landlord had defaulted in another obligation applying to Landlords, or
 - (d) that any person had committed a criminal offence (whether or not there had been concluded Court proceedings).
- 1.11. Accordingly, if a Resolution is made the publicly-accessible Minutes:
 - (a) must exclude so much of the proceedings during which the public were excluded (Section 50C); but
 - (b) shall include a summary of the proceedings without disclosing the 'Exempt Information' (Sections 50C(2) & 50C(1)(b)).
- 1.12. Although the Schedules have not been published, in each case the individual Landlords have been given appropriate copies and notice of the Committee Meeting.

The Landlord Registration Scheme

- 1.13. The general rule is that a person wishing to let out a house must be Registered with the Council. Registration lasts 3 years. A person must re-apply within that time to remain Registered - Registration is not automatically renewed. The requirement to be Registered is subject to many exceptions, e.g. lets to family-members do not require Registration.
- 1.14. The Act specifies conditions which Landlords must meet. One of these conditions is that the Landlord is a 'fit and proper person' (Section 84(3)(c)). The considerations which are relevant to this question are set out by the Act.
- 1.15. Once a Landlord has been Registered, the Council is entitled to review the Registration. If not satisfied that the 'fit and proper' condition for Registration is met, the Council is obliged to remove Registration (Section 89).

- 1.16. If a Landlord rents a house without being Registered, or if Registration is removed, two things can happen:
 - (a) the Council may issue a Notice under Section 94 (often called a 'Rent Penalty Notice' or 'RPN'), meaning:
 - (i) the Tenant ceases to be liable for rent (but otherwise the Lease continues, so the Tenant remains in occupation and cannot be evicted for non-payment, and the Landlord remains responsible for repairs); and
 - (ii) any Housing Benefit stops being paid.
 - (b) the Landlord can be prosecuted for a criminal offence under Section 93(1). The penalty is a fine up to £50,000.

In addition, if Registration is removed, the Landlord can be prosecuted if he tries to obtain a new Tenant, e.g. by advertising the house for letting, or discussing terms with a prospective Tenant: Section 93(2). The penalty is a fine up to £50,000.

2. Background

2.1 The Clerk has received information set out in the Schedules. This information suggests that there may be a basis for the Committee concluding that the Landlord is not 'fit and proper', and that either the Application should be refused or the Registration already granted should be removed.

3. Proposals

- 3.1. The Committee should consider each case and decide whether or not to grant the Application, or remove the Registration.
- 3.2. If the Committee decide to refuse an Application, or to remove a Registration, and if they are satisfied that the house is presently occupied by a Tenant, they should then decide whether or not to issue a Notice under Section 94 (commonly known as a 'Rent Penalty Notice' or 'RPN') in respect of any house referred to in the Application or Registration.
- 3.3. If they are not so satisfied, they may delegate authority to the Clerk to issue a RPN if and when the Clerk is so satisfied. Given that there would be nothing to stop the Landlord receiving Housing Benefit even if he was unregistered, the Committee may wish to delegate authority to the Clerk to issue a RPN if the Clerk later receives information that any house which is currently covered by the Registration is occupied by a Tenant.

4. Implications

Financial:	If a RPN is issued, the Housing Benefit Office will be informed, so that the Landlord will no longer receive Housing Benefit.
Human Resources:	None
Legal:	Where the Council makes any decision to refuse or revoke Registration, to make a RPN, or to refuse to recall a RPN, the Landlord may appeal to the Sheriff or the First Tier Tribunal.
	If the Council issues a RPN, only the Tenant's liability to pay rent will cease. The other rights and obligations of the Lease will be unaffected: Section 94(3) & (8).
	For example:
	a.the Tenant will continue to have whatever security of tenure he already had (he cannot be evicted for non-payment of rent where that non-payment is due to the RPN);
	b. the Landlord will only be entitled to evict the Tenant if the Sheriff grants a Decree;
	c. the Landlord continues to have repairing obligations.
	If a RPN is revoked by the Sheriff or Tribunal on appeal by the Landlord, the Tenant only has to pay 'arrears' of rent if, and to the extent, ordered. If a RPN is revoked by the Council then 'arrears' are not due (Section 95(3)
Equality:	None
Environmental &	None
Sustainability:	
Key Priorities:	None
Community Benefits:	Preventing unfit Landlords from operating may contribute to the wellbeing of the community. Preventing Housing Benefit being paid to unregistered Landlords safeguards public funds.

5. Consultation

5.1 No consultations are appropriate. Depending on the circumstances, the Schedules contain information supplied by the Police, NAC Departments, or other agencies.

ELMA MURRAY Chief Executive

Elva Murray

Reference: WO'B

For further information please contact William O'Brien, Solicitor (Licensing)

on 01294 324305

Background Papers

None