

**MINUTES of MEETING of PLANNING, PROTECTIVE SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE**  
**held in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD**  
**on WEDNESDAY, 20 AUGUST 2014**

**Present:** Councillor David Kinniburgh (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Roderick McCuish	Councillor Robert G MacIntyre
Councillor Donald MacMillan	Councillor Alex McNaughton
Councillor James McQueen	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Richard Trail	

**Attending:** Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law  
Sheila MacFadyen, Senior Solicitor  
Kate Connelly, Trainee Solicitor  
Maureen Munro, Applicant  
John Kerr in attendance with Applicant

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were intimated from Councillors Gordon Blair, Mary-Jean Devon, George Freeman and Alistair MacDougall.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982: APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF TAXI OPERATOR'S LICENCE (M MUNRO, OBAN)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. The Chair then outlined the procedure that would be followed and the applicant was invited to speak in support of her application.

**Applicant**

Ms Munro advised that she had been driving as a Taxi Driver for over a year. She advised that she wanted to progress and own her own business. Ms Munro referred to the Halcrow report and advised that she disagreed with its findings, stating that in the experience she had gained over the last year she knew there to be a demand.

**Member's Questions**

Councillor McCuish asked Ms Munro how she could show demand. Ms Munro advised that there is a demand through the number of visitors to the area. She advised that the taxi rank can be very deceptive, and advised that the rank can be full one minute and empty the next.

Councillor McCuish enquired as to the work pattern Ms Munro intends to operate. Ms Munro advised that she intended to operate on a full-time basis, doing over-time as and when required.

Councillor Trail expressed concern over the financial commitment Ms Munro was taking on. Mr Kerr requested permission to speak on behalf of Ms Munro. The Head of Governance and Law confirmed that this was okay. Mr Kerr advised that Ms Munro had recently come off of benefits and was trying to start a life where she could stand on her own two feet. Mr Kerr advised that the vehicle, insurance and road tax were all in place and all that was left to obtain was the licence. He further advised that Ms Munro could only work limited hours before, due to being on benefits, but that recently she had even been asked to work on her days off. He advised that he believed this to show demand.

Councillor Currie sought and received clarification that Ms Munro is confident of her business plan.

### **Summing Up**

Ms Munro advised that she believed that she had a place as a Taxi Operator and confirmed that this would give her the chance to earn more money, doing the same hours that she currently works as a Taxi Driver for John MacDonald, while enjoying the benefits of a home life.

When asked Ms Munro confirmed that she had received a fair hearing.

### **Debate**

Councillor McCuish advised that as there was no objection from the other Operators in the area, he was happy to approve the application.

Councillor Currie advised that he was happy to approve the application as did Councillor Colville who concurred with Councillor McCuish and also noted his appreciation of the answers provided by the applicant to Member's questions.

### **Decision**

The Committee agreed unanimously to grant a Taxi Operator licence to Ms Munro, on the basis that there had been no objections to the application and given her advice on the "market".

(Reference: Report by Head of Governance and Law, submitted.)