

Motherwell, 22 December 2016 at 2 pm.

A Special Meeting of the **CORPORATE SERVICES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE**

PRESENT

Councillor W. Hogg, Convener; Councillors Bonnar, Irvine, McKendrick, H. McVey and P. O'Rourke.

CHAIR

Councillor W. Hogg (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Administrative Officer and Acting Managing Solicitor, Licensing and Litigation, Legal and Democratic Solutions.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Inspector Thomson, Police Scotland.

APOLOGIES

Councillors Chadha, Majid and McLaren.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN TERMS OF THE ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000

1. No declarations were made.

It was agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item on the grounds that the business involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

HEARING

PRIVATE HIRE CAR LICENCE AND PRIVATE HIRE CAR DRIVER'S LICENCE – COMPLAINT - ROSS HOPKINS

2. The Acting Managing Solicitor advised that, in terms of paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, a complaint (tabled) had been received from the Chief Constable, Police Scotland relative to the behaviour of Ross Hopkins who currently held a Private Hire Car Licence and a Private Hire Car Driver's Licence.

The Sub-Committee then heard Inspector Thomson outline the Chief Constable's complaint and Ross Hopkins' agent, Andrew Steven, Watters Steven and Company, Solicitors, speak in respect of the complaint and table two character references.

Thereafter, Ross Hopkins, Andrew Steven and the representative of the Police withdrew from the meeting and the Sub-Committee resumed consideration of the matter.

Ross Hopkins, Andrew Steven and the representative of the Police were then re-admitted to the meeting.

Councillor Hogg, seconded by Councillor Bonnar moved that the complaint by the Chief Constable relative to the behaviour of Ross Hopkins, in respect of his Private Hire Car Driver's Licence be upheld and that the Licence be suspended, with immediate effect, for a period not exceeding six months.

Councillor P. O'Rourke, seconded by Councillor H. McVey, moved, as an amendment that the complaint by the Chief Constable relative to the behaviour of Ross Hopkins, in respect of his Private Hire Car Driver's Licence be not upheld.

On a vote being taken, three Members voted for the amendment and three Members voted for the motion.

The vote being equal, the Convener exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

Decided:

- (1) that in terms of paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Chief Constable relative to the behaviour of Ross Hopkins in respect of his Private Hire Car Licence be not upheld, and
- (2) that in terms of paragraph 12 of Schedule 1 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982, the complaint by the Chief Constable relative to the behaviour of Ross Hopkins in respect of his Private Hire Car Driver's Licence be upheld and that the licence be suspended, with immediate effect, for a period not exceeding six weeks.