

A MEETING OF THE LICENSING BOARD

WAS HELD ON 8 JUNE 2010

The Mayor (Councillor Allen) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Beavis (P), Bradley (P), Carter CK (P), Carter CR (P), Chegwyn (P), Mrs Cully (P), Foster-Reed (P), Jacobs (P), Murphy (P) and Scard (P).

7. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of The Mayor.

8. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Bradley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 10 (Application for the issue of a Private Hire Vehicle Driver's Licence) as the applicant was known to him.

Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 9 Application for the issue of a (Private Hire Vehicle Drivers Licence) as he owned a shop in the High Street.

9. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Board held on 23 March 2010 and 19 May 2010 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

10. DEPUTATIONS

A deputation had been received on Agenda Item 6 (Review of Hackney Carriage fare tariff).

11. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

PART II

12. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

Consideration was given to a joint report of the Environmental Services Manager and Financial Services Manager that advised the Board of the role of the licensing authority in controlling the Hackney Carriage tariff and of a review carried out on the tariff currently in operation.

Mr Burnett was invited to address the Board. He advised that he was present

at the meeting in order to answer any questions that Members may have that required an answer from a member of the trade.

Members were advised that a figure of 3.91% had been identified by the hackney carriage formula as the percentage increase in the Hackney Carriage tariff for 2010/11.

Members were requested to consider whether to approve an increase in the maximum level of Hackney Carriage Fare and, if approved, which formula and tariff model should be implemented.

Members sought clarification as to what constituted a piece of luggage. Mr Burnett advised that a suitcase or a holdall, rather than supermarket carrier bags were determined to be luggage.

It was requested that additional clarification be given to the term luggage within the published Hackney Carriage fares.

Mr Burnett advised that charges for additional passengers, luggage, and dogs were discretionary and often not imposed by drivers.

Members were advised that all Hackney Carriage meters would need to be calibrated to program in Bank Holidays. Drivers could choose whether to also have the new fares programmed into the meters.

Members approved the increase in the maximum level of Hackney Carriage fare and agreed to implement tariff model one.

Members debated a request from licence holders that the maximum level of Hackney Carriage Fares chargeable for Christmas Day and Boxing Day be increased from one and a half to two times the normal fare.

Members refused the request and agreed that the maximum level of Hackney Carriage fare for Christmas Day and Boxing Day remain at one and a half times the normal fare.

Members considered the proposed implementation of tariff two between 23:30 and 05:00. Mr Burnett advised the Board that there would be a saving for persons using Hackney Carriages in the early morning, often commuters. He also advised that in other Licensing Authorities, tariff two was implemented from 23:00.

It was agreed that the hours for the implementation of tariff two remain unchanged at 00:00 until 06:00

Members rejected the implementation of a tariff three for five to seven seat vehicles. It was acknowledged that, to date, none of the other licensing authorities in Hampshire had adopted special tariffs for larger vehicles

Members requested that further consultation be undertaken with the trade

throughout the year in relation to the proposal.

Members agreed to an additional charge of 10p for each of the following:

- Per piece of luggage
- For each dog (excluding guide/assistance dogs)
- For each person in excess of one

Members also agreed to an increase in the charge for cleaning out a vehicle fouled by a passenger to £50. This was in line with the charge imposed by other Licensing Authorities.

The current permitted charge for time waiting, once hired, was 20p per 60 seconds. Members were requested to consider a reduction in the waiting time.

Members agreed to a reduction in waiting time, the cost /time to be amended to 20p for 50 seconds.

Members agreed to a request to remove the fee levied for cheque acceptance, currently 0.90p

RESOLVED: That;

- a) an increase in the maximum level of Hackney Carriage fares chargeable be approved and that tariff model 1, as shown in Appendix B of the report, be implemented, subject to public consultation, from 1 August 2010;
- b) the maximum level of Hackney Carriage fares chargeable for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day remain unchanged;
- c) an additional charge of 10p for each of the following be approved:
 - Per piece of luggage
 - For each dog (excluding guide/assistance dogs)
 - For each person in excess of one;
- d) an increase in the charge for cleaning out a vehicle fouled by passengers to £50, be approved;
- e) a reduction in waiting time to the cost/time of 20p for 50 seconds be approved; and
- f) the fee levied for cheque acceptance, currently 0.90p, be removed.

13. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following items the public be excluded from the meeting, as 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 these items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, and further that in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out.

14. APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUE OF A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE

Note: Councillor Hook declared a personal interest in this item and remained in the room for the entire discussion.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised the Board of an application for the issue of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence.

The report was exempt from publication as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information by reason that it contained personal information that was not considered appropriate to be released to the public.

RESOLVED: That the application for the issue of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence be refused.

15. APPLICATION FOR THE ISSUE OF A PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENCE

Note: Councillor Bradley declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item left the room and took no further part in the discussion or voting there on.

Councillor Chegwyn declared that he was the Ward Councillor for the applicant, but that the applicant was not known to him personally.

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Environmental Services Manager which advised the Board of an application for the issue of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence.

The report was exempt from publication as the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information by reason that it contained personal information that was not considered appropriate to be released to the public.

RESOLVED: That the application for the issue of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle Driver's Licence be granted.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A request was made that, in light of recent media coverage, a report be presented to a future meeting of the Licensing Board detailing the immigration

status checks to be carried out on drivers by the Licensing Authority.

It was confirmed that the immigration status of existing license holders would be checked and that a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Licensing Board.

The meeting ended at 7.30p.m.

CHAIRMAN