

A MEETING OF THE LICENSING BOARD

WAS HELD ON 23 JULY 2013

The Mayor (Councillor Beavis) (ex-officio), Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Hook) (ex-officio); Councillors Allen (P), Ms Ballard (P), Carter CK (P), Dickson, Ms Diffey (P), Hazel (P), Mrs Hook (P); Jacobs (P), Mrs Morgan (P), Murphy (P), Scard (P), Mrs Searle (P) and Mrs Wright (P).

It was reported that in accordance with Standing Order 2.3.6, Councillor Mrs Hook had been nominated to replace Councillor Dickson for this meeting.

14. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was submitted on behalf of Councillor Dickson.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Board held on 4 June 2013 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

17. DEPUTATIONS

Mr Andrew Christian requested to make a deputation on item number 6 (Review of Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff). However, he did not attend the meeting.

18. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

19. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

Consideration was given to a report of the Community and Customer Services Manager advising the Board of the role of the Licensing Authority in controlling the Hackney Carriage tariff and advising the Board of a potential increase to the Hackney Carriage tariff currently in operation together with related fees.

Members were advised that a tariff formula calculation had been used to identify two model options. Model 1 would see a meter distance reduced from 186 to 184 to achieve an average increase as close to 0.54% as possible, whereby model 2 held fares at the current level.

Members were advised that a consultation exercise had taken place whereby 60 local vehicle license holders had been written to and consulted on the formula findings and invited to indicate their preferred tariff model option.

It was advised that a total of 15 replies had been received and that the replies supporting the increase exceeded the replies opposing the increase. The Board were further advised that 4 replies had opposed the increase. 5 replies asked for an increase of 0.54% to be applied, 3 replies showed no preference and disagreed with both tariff models offered and 2 replies asked for an increase of the flag pull off rate. 1 reply disagreed with both tariff models and commented that an increase in the tariff was

required and an accompanying letter suggests a modest increase all the way through was needed because most jobs were 2 miles or under.

Members were advised that Model 1 (Appendix B) would produce an increase in fare income (0.57%) approximately in accordance with that indicated as appropriate by the Price Indices Formula (0.54%) this increase being achieved by the reduction of meter distances for each 20p increase in charge from 186 metres to 184 metres.

RESOLVED: That the Board agrees an increase to the Hackney Carriage tariff as a maximum table of fares to be achieved through the adoption of Model 1 as set out within Appendix B of the report.

PART II

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That in relation to the following item 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 exemptions outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information, for the reasons set out in the report.

21 APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER'S LICENCE

Consideration was given to an exempt report of the Community and Customer Services Manager which advised the Board of an application to grant a Private Hire Driver's Licence.

RESOLVED: That the application for a Private Hire Vehicle License be approved.

CHAIRMAN