

# LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Meeting: Thursday, 3rd November, 2022  
at 2.00 pm. (Drawing Room)

Present: Councillors Callister (Chairman), Assouad, Hall, McLeavy, Maddox, C. Thomson and Wall.

Officers Katherine Benson (Senior Licensing Officer) and Sandra Kemsley  
Present: (Democratic Services Officer).

Legal Representative: Paul O'Donnell (Local Authority Retained Solicitor)

## **13 Apologies for Absence/Attendance of Substitute Members**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Barlow, Biggins, Gawne, McEwan and Seward.

Councillor C. Thomson attended as a substitute for Councillor McEwan.

## **14 Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September, 2022 were taken as read and confirmed.

## **15 Minutes of the Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committee**

The Minutes of the Licensing Regulatory Sub-Committee meetings held on 13th June and 11th July, 2022 had been submitted for noting.

## **16 Public Participation**

Representatives from the Taxi trade attended the meeting. Mr Martyn Bell addressed the Committee.

No deputations or petitions had been received in respect of the meeting.

## **17 Objection to Hackney Carriage Fare Increase**

The Senior Licensing Officer reported that at its meeting on 8th September 2022 Licensing Regulatory Committee had considered a report outlining proposals for an increase in hackney carriage fares and other changes to the tariff, including a new tariff for vehicles with 5 or more passenger seats.

The Committee had considered the feedback from the trade and the Council's methodology, agreeing a rise of 18.4% on the 1 mile normal fare and 12% on the 2 mile normal fare, amending the timings for hirings begun between midnight and 7am, to start from 11pm, and re-instatement of the £0.20 over two people.

In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, notice of the variation of the table of fares had been published in The Mail (formerly North West Evening Mail) on 20th September 2022, giving 14 days in which to lodge objections. A copy of the advert had been attached to the report.

An objection to the proposed table of fares was received on 3rd October 2022 from a member of the public. A copy of the objection had been attached to the report.

The objection stated:

“I object to the increase I know this is a hackney fare but private hire taxis have told me they’re waiting for the hackney increase so they will put up there fares the same. They make enough money through the day that trying to get a taxi in the evening or night is so hard and I’m often late for work I’m on minimum wage and will find the increase hard”.

No further objections had been received.

Mr Martyn Bell, a self-employed hackney carriage driver, attended the meeting and addressed the Committee. He pointed out that the proposed increases reflected and sought to address the additional costs being borne by the trade. He also asserted that increasing fees was more likely to attract new drivers into the profession which would help address one of the points raise by the objector relating to there being a general shortage of drivers.

Options available to the Council included:-

1. a. Modify the table of fares in light of the objection; or  
b. Confirm the originally proposed table of fares approved at Licensing Regulatory Committee on 8th September 2022  
and
2. Agree a date on which the revised or originally proposed table of fares should become effective, proposed to be Monday 21st November 2022.

It was moved by Councillor Hall and seconded by Councillor Maddox, and

RESOLVED:- It was unanimously agreed:-

1. To confirm the originally proposed table of fares approved at Licensing Regulatory Committee on 8th September 2022; and
2. To agree that the tables of fares should become effective on Monday 21st November 2022.

The meeting closed at 2.14 pm.