

Taxi Licensing Committee

Thursday 13 July 2017

PRESENT:

Councillor Kelly, in the Chair.
Councillor K Foster, Vice Chair.
Councillors Mrs Aspinall, Carson, Mavin, Morris and Rennie.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Bowie and Singh.

Also in attendance: Ann Gillbanks (Senior Lawyer), Rachael Hind (Licensing Service Manager), Graham Hooper (Senior Officer, Intelligence and Licensing), Debbie Lazenby (Enforcement Officer) and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 12.43 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

13. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the code of conduct.

14. **Minutes**

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017.

15. **Chair's Urgent Business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

16. **Appeal Cases**

The Committee were advised that there had been one appeal case since the last meeting where the Committee's decision had been upheld by the Magistrate's Court. Another appeal is due to be heard in the Magistrate's Court on 25 July and an update will be provided at the next meeting.

17. **Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licence Fees**

The Committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) took account of two representations which had been received in objection to the advertised increase in fees;

- (c) took the above report and all that was said into consideration.

The Committee noted that they had not had any significant representations from operators or other private hire drivers and considered that the fees represented a fair and reasonable rate of licence to be paid.

Agreed the approval of the new fee structure as set out in the Fees Table (set out in Appendix I of the report) to commence on the 1 August 2017.

18. **Proposal for a Hackney Carriage Table of Fares Increase**

The Committee -

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) took the above report and all that was said into consideration.

The Committee considered that the proposed Table of Fares were fair and set at a reasonable limit to support the trade however considered that the extra charge for fuel should not be reduced to the proposed figure of £1.30 but should remain at the current figure of £1.40 as fuel prices were low and stable at the present time.

Agreed –

- (1) to approve the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares in Appendix 2 to this report, subject to the following amendment –
- (i) fuel – change the reference to £1.40 instead of £1.30 to read ‘to be added to each hiring if and when fuel oil is £1.40 at Exeter Street Service Station with a further 10p for each subsequent increase of 10p per litre’

as proposed by officers, for the reasons given in this report;

- (2) that Members resolve to authorise the advertising of the Table of Fares agreed in recommendation 1 as required by the Plymouth City Council Act 1975, and to allow the Table of Fares to come into effect four weeks after the period allowed for objections should no objections be received.

(Note: Councillors Foster and Kelly voted against the change to the proposed fuel charge in recommendation (1))

19. **Exempt information**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

20. **Confidential minutes**

Agreed the confidential minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2017.

21. **Application for the grant of a Hackney Carriage Driver's Licence - AIM**

The Committee –

- (a) considered the report from the Director of Public Health;
- (b) heard from AIM;
- (c) took the above report and all that was said into consideration.

The Committee considered that they had insufficient information to be able to reach a decision on this application and therefore agreed that the application would be adjourned for AIM to seek references from his current and previous employer and to bring these back to a committee meeting within three months at which time his application will be considered.