

## **LICENSING COMMITTEE**

12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Present** – Councillors Myers (Chairman), Heseltine, Ireton, Ogden and Whitaker.

**Officers** – Solicitor to the Council and Deputy Monitoring Officer, Licensing Manager, Assistant Licensing Officer and Democratic Services and Scrutiny Officer.

Apologies for absence was received from Councillors Jaquin, Moorby, Mulligan and Solloway.

Start: 6.35pm

Finish: 7.05pm

The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**Declarations of Interests** – None.

### **Minutes for Report**

LIC.257

#### **Public Participation**

A member of the trade addressed the committee on behalf of other taxi drivers. He suggested that a 50% rise for Tariff 1 was too much, and that he would like to see a 33% rise across every cost.

LIC.258

#### **Hackney Carriage Table of Fares**

The Licensing Manager submitted a report asking Members to consider the public consultation responses and approve a new Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allowed local authorities to set fares for licensed Hackney Carriages in the District. The tariff set the maximum fares that the travelling public could be charged and before the Licensing Committee meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the last review of fares was in 2018. Section 65 set out the steps to be followed including a period of consultation.

In an effort to deal with the request as expeditiously as possible, the Chair agreed to a short consultation exercise with the 124 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers, primarily to acquire sufficient statistical information to enable officers to compile a draft revised Table of Fares. As at 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 10 responses were received but these provided insufficient data to calculate a reasonable evidence base. For this reason, the committee extended the trade consultation and as at 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 23 responses were received. A public consultation was run between 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, and Members considered the responses as set out in the report.

Members acknowledged the urgency in reviewing the Table of Fares as it had been several years since the last review and fares had not kept pace with inflation and taxi drivers' expenses had risen considerably. The Licensing Manager reported that the Table of Fares put before Members saw Tariff 1 increase by 50%, all other Tariffs increase by 33% and the callout and soiling charges remain the same as before. The Licensing Manager clarified that if the Table of Fares put before Members is modified, it would only need to go back to public consultation if the committee decided something far outside the original consultation. Councillor Ireton proposed that there should be a 33% increase to all Tariffs, the call out charge and the soiling charge. This was seconded by Councillor Heseltine and approved by the committee. It was agreed that the new Table of Fares is to be implemented from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Members agreed that if a review is deemed necessary,

then one will be carried out, and encouraged the Trade to contact the Licensing Manager if their business costs further increased.

**Resolved –** (1) That, all Tariffs charges are increased by 33%.

(2) That, the call out and soiling charges are also increased by 33%.

(3) That, the new Hackney Carriage Table of Fares is implemented from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

LIC.259

**Any Other Business**

The Licensing Manager reported that the Council had been successful with the Magistrates' Court appeal heard on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 against the revocation of a taxi licence and was awarded costs of £1,000.

Chairman.