

MINUTES OF: LICENSING COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 10th July 2018

**Present: Councillor Hughes (Chair)
Cllr Smallridge, Cllr Eaton, Cllr Cheetham, Cllr Haworth, Cllr Johnson, Cllr Neal, Cllr Gill and Cllr Essex (subbing for Cllr Stansfield)**

**In Attendance: Phil Morton, Public Protection Unit Manager
Abigail Wrench, Legal Services Officer
Joanna Wood, Committee and Member Services Officer**

Also Present: 1 member of the public

BUSINESS MATTERS

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Shipley, Councillor Stansfield (subbing for Councillor Shipley), Councillor Lythgoe and Councillor Stevens.

2. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on the 6th February 2018 to be approved as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEES

That the minutes of the meetings of the Driver Sub-Committees held on the 13th February 2018, 22nd February 2018, 22nd March 2018, 12th April 2018, 22nd May 2018 and the 21st June 2018 to be approved as a correct recorded.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

6. REPORT B1 Proposed Review of Hackney Carriage Fares

The Public Protection Unit Manager introduced the report and provided the Committee with information in relation to current Hackney Carriage Tariffs and to request an increase in the current tariff also outlined in the report which would be implemented following the statutory advertising requirements and consideration of any subsequent objections.

At the meeting of the Licensing Committee on the 23rd June 2008 it was agreed to commence a consultation exercise to review the existing Hackney Carriage Tariff.

As a result of that consultation the tariff was increased as outlined in Appendix A of the Report.

A request had been received from a member of the Taxi Trade to request that the tariff is reviewed and amended as outlined in Appendix B of the Report.

A comparison with a selection of neighbouring authorities in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire had been carried out and the results were outlined in Appendix C of the Report.

Mr David Lawrie spoke on the item and answered questions for clarification from members.

Discussion took place on the item and the Public Protection Unit Manager provided clarification as summarised below:

- Waiting tariff and costs
- Fare prices for larger vehicles with capacity of carrying up to 8 people
- Airport costings
- Increase in fares in Rossendale Borough only
- Review of fares to be dealt with every 3 years

Councillor Eaton moved the recommendation of the report with a proposal to include the following:

- Waiting tariff to be increased as follows:
 - Tariff One: increased to 20p
 - Tariff Two: increased to 30p
 - Tariff Three: increased to 40p
- Extra passengers – In excess of 4 people, a charge of 50p per person up to a maximum of 8 persons.

Councillor Hughes seconded the recommendations as above.

Councillor Neal moved an amendment to include a review of the tariffs every 3 years.

Councillor Essex seconded this amendment.

Members voted on the amendment becoming the substantive motion.

For	Against	Abstain
9	0	0

The motion was carried and members voted as follows:

For	Against	Abstain
9	0	0

Resolved:

That the proposed fares to include the above amendments to the waiting tariffs and to include a 3 year review be approved, in preparation to follow the statutory advertising requirements and consideration of any subsequent objections.

7. REPORT B2 Licensing Update Report

The Public Protection Unit Manager introduced the report and provided the Committee with an update in relation to the taxi and private hire trade.

DRIVERS

The knowledge and conditions test for all drivers, both new and renewal had been running for a year. During this time all new and renewal drivers had been obliged to take part one and part two of the test.

The test consists of questions on basic Maths and English, local conditions and by-laws and a geographic knowledge test on the Rossendale area.

Since June 2017, there were 470 tests booked for new drivers; 61 passed the test, 307 failed and 102 didn't turn up.

There were 321 tests booked for renewal drivers, 92 passed, 192 failed, 23 didn't turn up and 14 cancelled.

Part 2 of the test is classroom based, interactive 2 hour session delivered by an experienced trainer in Safeguarding, CSE and disability awareness. This is followed by a test to ensure that applicants have understood and absorbed the training.

Total tests taken and passed are 151 (2 previous candidates are still awaiting their Safeguarding Test due to holiday or other work commitments).

Between June 2017 and May 2018, 1138 driver licences were due to be renewed. Only 321 applied to do so and only 92 passed the text (8%).

Between June 2018 and 31st May 2019 a further 2084 drivers are due to renew their licences. The expectation is that a similar percentage will continue to apply to renew, and to take and pass the test.

This will result in a significant decrease in the total number of hackney carriage drivers licensed by Rossendale Borough Council.

VEHICLES

The total number of vehicles licensed in 2016 was around 2500, the vast majority of which were working outside the area.

The figure as of the 22nd June 2018 has reduced to 500.

The Council's policy of insisting CCTV fitted in all our licensed vehicles is now being used as an example of good practice across the North West and further afield.

Rosendale is also leading on work across the county to formulate a common set of standards in relation to the licensing of drivers and vehicles.

Discussion took place on the item as summarised below:

- Recognise work of members, officers and trade members
- Consequences of nonattendance at tests

Resolved:

All members noted the contents of the update report.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and closed 7.20pm.

CHAIR: _____