

Informal Meeting of the Licensing Committee

Date: 04 March 2013

Venue: Committee Room 1

Start Time: 14.30

End Time: 15.45

Members attending: Councillors K Angold-Stephens (Chairman), R Morgan, G Shiell, P Smith, D Wixley.

Apologies: P Spencer and T Thomas

Officers in attendance: Alison Mitchell, Kim Tuckey and Adrian Hendry

1. There were no declarations of interest.
2. It was noted that there was no other business.
3. The minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2013 was noted.

It was noted that the comments on taxi ranks fell outside the subject matter for this meeting and should be deferred to another meeting once further information was available.

4. It was noted that the meeting was convened to further discuss the application of a fixed fare and metre system.

The Committee looked at the table of tariffs set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report. They raised concerns that the 5 mile tariff set at £11.50 would penalise the rural residents of the District who have to travel further. Currently it was noted that a notional five mile journey came in at about £8. Officers commented that the tariffs, if agreed, would be reviewed again in a year's time, taking into account any complaints received. It was also noted that this was the maximum that could be charged and that individual drivers could always charge less than the tariff stated. This should be made more prominent in the report to Council and it should also be emphasised to the Taxi drivers that they could charge less than the tariff indicated.

If the £11.50 tariff was lowered then the 20p for a tenth of a mile charge would also have to be correspondingly lowered.

AGREED: The Committee agreed that the tariffs listed were about right except for the higher 5 mile rate. An updated report taking this into account should go to the next Licensing Committee in April for their consideration.

Councillor Smith asked that the consultation on the tariffs be advertised on the Council's website and that it be added to the report. She also wanted to know if Langston Road, who would test the meters, had existing equipment to test them or would they have to purchase it. She was told that they had been asked but had still not replied. However, it had been made clear that they could handle the testing and that they would have to levy a small charge for testing the meters.

The Committee then looked at the rates for different times of the day, noting that almost all authorities changed tariffs after 10pm and at Christmas.

AGREED: That the rates suggested in the report be agreed and be reviewed again in a year's time.

AGREED: It was also agreed that the word 'should' be deleted from recommendation one and that it should read: "The Authority set the fares charged for Hackney Carriages."

It was also noted that the taxi drivers and companies would be notified when the consultation was about to begin.