

## Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee – 15 August 2003

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Minutes of the meeting of the **Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee** held on **15 August 2003** when there were present:-

Cllr P F A Webster (Chairman)

Cllr Mrs R Brown

Cllr T Livings

Cllr C R Morgan

### **OFFICERS PRESENT**

S J Clarkson - Head of Revenue and Housing Management

J Crawford - Transportation Manager

J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT**

Martin Chaplin of the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association and Derek Wilsher of the Association of Circuit Company Owners in the Rochford District

### **23 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2003 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

### **24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was recognised that members of the Sub-Committee had a personal interest to the extent that they used taxis.

### **25 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF**

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on proposed changes to the existing authorised fare tariff.

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the taxi trade and invited them to indicate any views they had on proposals before the meeting. The representatives indicated that there was preference within the trade for a charging arrangement which enabled taxi meters to identify each twenty pence of a journey's cost. The constant clicking of a meter set to show smaller increments could be psychologically off-putting to the customer.

Responding to member questions, officers advised that:-

- Following observations from the trade, all proposed options provided for a reduction in the charges for animals carried.

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- Work on reviewing the viability of using the consumer price index to assist in achieving a formula for tariff increases was in hand. The forthcoming report on this matter could include detail on how meters were set and functioned. Data which enabled a more direct comparison with previous charging could be provided in the future.
- It was not practicable to apply the same percentage increase to each individual fare band.
- The Council's previous charges represented a 4% increase in running mileages. However, the booking fee was removed and the time when the night rate could be implemented was changed from 9.00pm to 10.30pm.
- The Council currently licenced just under 300 drivers. The figure last year was 206. Some drivers only worked for limited hours and days.
- Once introduced, the proposed Community Transport Scheme would assist elderly residents in remote areas of the District.

During debate, the Sub-Committee discussed aspects of typical journeys using the Hullbridge Ward as an example. It was recognised that some customers would choose to use a taxi instead of their own or public transport. It was also observed that the fact that the setting of taxi meters introduced set parameters to charging considerations could introduce difficulties when reviewing proposals.

The Sub-Committee re-affirmed its previous recommendation that the night rate should continue to be implemented at 10.30pm by a show of hands. During detailed discussion, Members concluded that the fare tariff associated with proposed Option 3 could be endorsed in that, overall, it approximated to an increase of 4% over typical one to four mile distances. This could be suitably combined with the extra charge arrangements set out under Option 1.

On a motion, moved by Councillor P F A Webster and seconded by Councillor C R Morgan, it was:-

**RECOMMENDED** to the Environmental Services Committee that the 2003/04 Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff be as set out at Appendix 1 to these Minutes.  
(HRHM)

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The meeting commenced at 2.30pm and closed at 3.44pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....

**ROCHFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976**

**TABLE OF MAXIMUM HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES AND CHARGES**

**Date to be arranged**

**Also applicable to Private Hire Vehicles fitted with Taximeters**

**DISTANCE OR TIME**

For the first 882 yards (806.50 metres) or the first 3 minutes 4 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time ) -	210p
For each additional 286 yards (261.50 metres) or 60 Seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) until a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter.	20p
For each additional 214.52 yards (196.15 metres) or 45 seconds (or a combination of parts of such distance or time) when a fare of £6.70 is shown on the taximeter.	20p
For hirings begun between 9.00pm on 24 December and 6.00am on 27 December and between 9.00pm on 31 December and 6.00am on 2 January.	Double Fares (No Extras)

**EXTRA CHARGES**

For hirings begun between 10.30pm and 6.00am also on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 6.00am and midnight (except during Christmas and New Year period).	160p
For all items carried in the luggage compartment. (maximum charge)	40p
For animals carried (except assistance dogs).	40p
For each passenger carried in excess of one.	40p
Despoilment charge. (up to maximum)	£75