

Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee – 23 January 2006

Minutes of the meeting of the **Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee** held on **23 January 2006** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr P F A Webster

Cllr R A Amner
Cllr T Livings

Cllr P R Robinson

OFFICERS PRESENT

J Crawford - Transportation Manager
J Read - Hackney Carriage Officer
J Bostock - Principal Committee Administrator

ALSO PRESENT

M Chaplin - Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association
M Street & D Wilsher - Association of Circuit Company Owners in the
Rochford District.

43 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2005 and the reconvened meeting held on 3 November 2005 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

44 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE

The Sub-Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on a request from the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association for an increase to the existing authorised fare tariff.

Having reviewed the request, Members of the Sub-Committee took the unanimous view that an increase averaged to 6½% over a four-mile journey for an eighteen month period ending in September 2007 would be more reasonable than the 8% proposed by the trade. A figure of 6½% would accord with increases associated with pensions over a two year period (and pensioners are amongst service users) and seemed reasonable in the context of recent awards made by local government employers.

It was observed that there is always a balance to be achieved between the requirements of the trade and those of the wider community in terms of the ability to pay. It was recognised that, given the factors associated with implementing an increase, it may be that a final averaged increase will need to be rounded up to as near to 6½% as possible.

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In responding to comments from the trade representatives, the Chairman observed that the report before the Sub-Committee provided detailed information on the trade's submission and that free market factors can be related to this subject - taxi businesses being commercial operations. It was open to the trade to make submissions as considered appropriate.

During discussion Mr M Chaplin on behalf of the trade asked if, as an alternative to the submission set out in the report, consideration could be given to an increase representing 8% over a 2-year period (March 2006 to March 2008).

It was agreed that the meeting should be adjourned for a period to provide time for the provision of any additional information that may be required to consider this request.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and adjourned at 10.30am.

Chairman

Date