

## Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee – 3 November 2005

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Minutes of a Re-Convened meeting of the **Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee** held on **3 November 2005** 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

## 42 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE REVIEW – FURTHER CONSIDERATION

The Sub-Committee gave further consideration to the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management on a request from the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association to change the existing authorised fare tariff in tandem with an Addendum Paper that updated some of the figures set out in Report Appendix 3 (comparison with other Authorities) and proposed a timetable for future fare increases. With regard to appendix 2 of the report, it was noted that the proposed extra charge for hiring between 10.30pm and 6.00am should have been shown as from Monday to Sunday (except during the Christmas and New Year period), not from Monday to Saturday.

The Sub-Committee sought the view of the representative from the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers' Association, Mr M Chaplin, on a suggestion that the Association's proposals be endorsed subject to the exclusion of a booking fee (something which only Basildon District Council operated within Essex) and to any extra charges associated with a night rate commencing at 11.00pm rather than 10.30pm. Mr Chaplin indicated that, from the trade perspective, any change to proposals would point to it being appropriate to withdraw the current submission and re-present new proposals based on an 'across the board' increase representing 4%. The exclusion of a booking fee would mean that only night time drivers would see any increases, and it would be preferable for there to be an arrangement whereby all drivers see some benefit, particularly in the context of increases in diesel and fuel costs.

Responding to questions, the Transportation Manager advised that the process associated with the formulation of revised proposals by the Association would take a number of weeks and that, rather than thinking in terms of two fare submissions within the period up to October 2007, there

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could be merit in the submission of one proposal to cover up to the end of the period.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the Association should be asked to submit revised proposals for consideration on the basis of an 'across the board' increase figure that could be applied for the period up to October 2007.

During debate, Members also noted that:-

- When meters are changed, there always needs to be some rounding up or down to avoid charges that include odd pennies.
- Whilst it is possible to have different views about the timing of increases in charges and what may be appropriate, time factors associated with making arrangements for an increase can have financial implications for the trade and it may be that strict one-year time frames are not always the most appropriate.
- Detailed consideration of appropriate future fare increase timeframes could be undertaken in tandem with any revised proposals from the Association.

The meeting re-convened at 2.00 pm and closed at 2.27 pm.

Chairman .....

Date .....