

TAXI TARIFF – CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS (Min 542/02)

The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 15, Councillors P F A Webster, J E Grey and C A Hungate have requested that the decision of the Environmental Services Committee relating to the above be called in for scrutiny by this Committee.

To assist Members, a copy of Minute 542/02, together with the original report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management, are appended.

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative & Member Services

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Margaret Martin on:-

Tel:- 01702 318179

E-Mail:- margaret.martin@rochford.gov.uk

542 TAXI TARIFF – CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management which detailed the objections received to the changes in the Hackney Carriage Tariff published in the Southend Recorder on 11 October 2002.

During debate and in response to Member questions, Officers advised that-

- Notwithstanding the number of objections received, the statutory time-table meant that a final decision now needed to be taken.
- There had been no objection to the four tariff changes introduced over the previous five years. The legal fees associated with any appeal to a Magistrates Court could be in the region of £700. It was unlikely that costs would be awarded against the Council.

A Motion addressing the various matters set out in the report and including that the Hackney Carriage tariff set at the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 5 September be the new tariff, was moved by Councillor A J Grey and seconded by Councillor A J Humphries. An amendment that extra charges commence from 9.00pm instead of 10.30pm, moved by Councillor Mrs H L A Glynn and seconded by Councillor C R Morgan, was lost on a show of hands.

Resolved

- (1) That the Hackney Carriage tariff set at the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 5 September 2002 (Minute 401/02 refers) be the new tariff.
- (2) That the effective date of the Hackney Carriage tariff be 2 December 2002.
- (3) That the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee be reconstituted as a consultative forum, meetings to be held twice yearly – in July to consider tariff charges and in January/February to consider licensing fees and charges associated with the trade.
- (4) That the Chairman and one other representative from the Association of Circuit Company Owners in the Rochford District and the Rochford Hackney Carriage Drivers Association be invited to attend meetings with the Taxi Licensing Sub-Committee as appropriate.

- (5) That the question of whether further consideration be given to future usage of the National Private Hire Association tariff model be discussed at the next meeting of the Taxi-Licensing Sub Committee. (HRHM)

Note: Councillors Mrs H L A Glynn and C R Morgan each wished it to be recorded that they had voted against the above decision.