

Licensing Board, 29 January 2013

**LICENSING BOARD
29 January 2013**

PRESENT: Councillor Andrew Morgan - Chairman, Councillor David Kelsey - Vice-Chairman; Councillors Linda Bailey, Susan Phillips, Theo Stratton, John Trickett and Christopher Wakefield.

The meeting commenced at 09.51 am.

SECTION I - BUSINESS RECOMMENDED TO THE COUNCIL

No items.

SECTION II - BUSINESS DECIDED UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Adams, Stephen Chappell and Anne Rey.

17. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor David Kelsey, in the interest of openness, declared that Ms. A. Whant of the taxi trade association, in respect of clauses 20-23, was well known to him. This was not a disclosable pecuniary interest and in no way prejudiced Councillor Kelsey's consideration of the deputation and the annual review of hackney carriage fares.

18. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 were confirmed.

19. DEPUTATIONS

The Democratic Services Officer reported that, under Procedure Rule 37, a deputation request had been received in relation to Report 'A' on the review of hackney carriage fares. The deputation request was received from Mr. J. Tye of the Bournemouth taxi trade association and comprised three speakers. In addition to Mr. J. Tye, Mr. J. De Little and Ms. A. Whant had requested to speak.

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DECISION MADE:

That the deputation request be accepted.

20. DEPUTATION - REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Mr. De Little informed the Board of the formula applied to the application for a 3.2% tariff increase by the taxi trade. The trade had researched the practice of neighbouring authorities in the South West and it was considered to be a responsible level of increase applied for, in line with average costs.

Mr. Tye outlined a separate proposal for consideration which related to an increase in the 'running in' or 'booking' fee applicable to journeys, which enabled the trade to offset a percentage of the dead mileage lost when driving to a new job across the Borough. It was highlighted that this booking fee had remained at its current rate for over ten years.

The taxi trade association responded to questions from the Board and the Chairman thanked members of the deputation for their submissions.

21. REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Board considered a report by the Licensing Officer, at 'A', which outlined the proposed changes to the Hackney Carriage maximum fares and charges, following a request from the taxi trade for a review of the fare structure.

Any agreed changes would need to be publicly displayed and come into effect on 2 April 2013, once calibrated. The proposed tariff for 2013/14 showing an increase of 3.2% was highlighted at Appendix A of the report.

In response to members' questions, the Licensing Officer confirmed that the additional proposal relating to the 'running in' fee, allowed for the rate 1 fee to rise from £0.60 to £0.80, and for the rate 2 fee to rise from £0.75 to £1.00.

Members acknowledged the nationally accepted formula and commended the taxi trade association for a responsible application for the increase in fares.

DECISION MADE:

- a. That the Board approve the changes to the Hackney Carriage maximum fares and charges as outlined at Appendix 1 of Report 'A'.

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- b. That the proposed change to the 'running in' fee be approved as presented:-
- Rate 1 - £0.80
 - Rate 2 - £1.00

22. REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICY ON CCTV IN PUBLIC CARRIAGES

The Board considered a report by the Licensing Officer, at 'B', which sought an agreed specification for the approval of CCTV systems, following the agreement of policy in 2011. The agreed specification would also determine two recent requests for the installation of CCTV systems in hackney carriage vehicles.

DECISION MADE:

That the agreed specification for approved CCTV systems in public carriages be as follows:-

- A camera which is hard wired to the vehicles electrical system.
- No facility for the driver to disable the camera or delete data held.
- Camera to have night vision capability.
- No visual display from the camera within the vehicle.
- No audio recording.
- Any data recording is to be to a secure encrypted file format only accessible to Dorset Police.

23. HORSESHOE COMMON TAXI RANK

The Vice-Chairman invited members of the taxi trade association to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the new street furniture at Horseshoe Common taxi rank.

Ms. A. Whant confirmed that the new queuing arrangements had improved the situation. However, a better understanding of the new parking arrangements by drivers would improve the situation even further.

The taxi trade association endeavoured to communicate the need to park appropriately at Horseshoe Common taxi rank to drivers through the trade newsletter.

Councillor Kelsey confirmed that he would begin discussions with the Cabinet Portfolio Holder in relation to the introduction of designated parking bay lines, to further improve drivers' understanding of the system.

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24. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION MADE:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 5 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

25. UPDATE ON APPEALS

The Board received a verbal update from the Senior Solicitor on appeals to be considered by Bournemouth Magistrates Court.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am.

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