

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday, 26 April 2017
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors C. Wraith MBE (Chair), J. Carr, Cherryholme, Clarke, Frost, S. Green, Hampson, W. Johnson, Markham, Millner, Richardson, Saunders, Sheard, Shepherd, Sixsmith MBE, Tattersall and Wilson

11 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest from Members in respect of items on the agenda.

12 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd February, 2017 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

13 Hackney Carriage Tariff - Proposed Changes

The Service Director Culture, Housing and Regulation submitted a report on a request received from Mr D Wilson (Licensing Consultant) on behalf of the Hackney Carriage Association to amend the current Hackney Carriage Tariff. A copy of the submission letter was appended to the report.

It was noted that the current table of fares had come into force on the 5th November, 2010. The Hackney Carriage Association appreciated that whilst their members required the fares to be set at a level that enabled them to maintain their vehicles and earn a modest living, the fares also needed to be affordable especially to those people who relied on them the most but could perhaps least afford them.

With this in mind, the Association had presented two competing proposals for the Board to consider (details of which were outlined within Appendix 1):

- Proposal 1 – reduce the distance that may be travelled for the minimum fare – this proposal would mean that those customers who travelled the shortest distances (many of whom relied most on taxis they could least afford) would not be affected by the change as they tended to travel for less than 1100 yards (10/16^{ths} of a mile)
- Proposal 2 – Increase all fares by increasing the fare for the minimum journey – this proposal would increase the fare for the minimum journey of 1 mile which would increase the fares on all journeys. This would most adversely affect those customers who travelled the shortest journeys and most benefit those who travelled the longest

The statutory notice had been published in the Barnsley Chronicle on the 24th March, 2017 detailing the two options and a copy of the notice was appended as Appendix

2. At the closure of the consultation period, no objections had been made to either of the proposed tariff amendments.

Mr D Wilson (A2Z Licensing, Licensing Consultant) and Ms N Berry-Bailey (Secretary to the Hackney Carriage Association) attended the meeting to make representations on the proposals. It was explained that at the most recent meeting, Members of the Association had expressed a preference for Proposal 1 to be implemented. On that basis the Board was requested to approve that option.

In response to questioning, the following matters were raised:

- The potential impact of increasing fares on passengers was noted but the fact that the preferred option would mean that the majority of passengers would see no, or little, increase was welcomed.
- It was noted that compared to many other areas and particularly neighbouring authorities, Barnsley's Hackney Carriage fares would still remain one of the lowest
- It was accepted that whilst the Hackney Carriage Tariff specified the statutory maximum that could be charged, this did not preclude the operator or hackney carriage driver from coming to special arrangements with their customers and charging lower fares

RESOLVED that the Hackney Carriage Tariff detailed within Proposal 1 of Appendix 1 of the report now submitted be approved for implementation from 00:01 on Thursday 27th April, 2017.

Chair