

MEETING:	General Licensing Regulatory Board
DATE:	Wednesday 19 April 2023
TIME:	2.00 pm
VENUE:	Reception Room, Barnsley Town Hall

MINUTES

Present

Councillors Green (Chair), Bowser, Clarke, Danforth, Hunt, Markham, Newing, Osborne, Shepherd, Stowe, Webster, Williams and Wilson

15 Declaration of Interests

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

16 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the General Licensing Regulatory Board meeting held on 15 February 2023 be approved as a true and correct record.

17 Hackney Carriage Tariff Increase

A report of the Service Director of Law and Governance was submitted which informed Members of the request received from the Barnsley Hackney Carriage Association for the Council to increase the current Hackney Carriage Tariff. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the Council the authority to fix fares for Hackney Carriages. The request to increase the current Hackney Carriage Tariff was due to rising fuel prices and inflation, which ran at above 10%.

Representatives from the Barnsley Hackney Carriage Association were present at the meeting, and with the permission of the Chair, they addressed the meeting in support of their proposals which were detailed as follows:-

- T1 Flag
An increase of 30p from £4.20 to £4.50
An increase of 20p on the mile thereafter from £1.60 to £1.80
- T2
An increase of 30p from £5.00 to £5.30
An increase of 20p on the mile thereafter from £1.60 to £1.80
- T3
In line with the tariff increases (double fare)
- T4
5/8 seaters to increase to fare and half of T1
From £5.40 to £6.70 flag

From £2.40 to £2.70 mile thereafter.

A request to go from charging T4 after 1.00am to 7.00am Sunday morning (super tariff) creating a fifth tariff, which keeps old T4 rates but with the same increases

- T5
An increase of 30p from £5.40 to £5.70
An increase of 30p in the mile thereafter from £2.40 to £2.70
Tariff 5 to be charged on all bank holidays 1.00am to 7.00am as on Sunday mornings
A further request was made for Hackney Carriages to charge T2 from Sunday 7.00am to Monday 7.00am
All other parts of the tariff to remain the same

The request received, if approved by the Board, would be published in the local press with a notice setting out the new table of fares and specifying the period of not less than 14 days within which any objections to the proposal could be made. If there were no objections received, the increase would be duly implemented. However, if any objections were received, then they would be reconsidered by the Board.

Members discussed the request which was detailed within the report circulated.

RESOLVED that Members considered the request for the increase to the current Barnsley Hackney Carriage Tariff, and agreed that it be taken out for consultation.

18 Licensing and Enforcement Update

Members were provided with an overview of the enforcement work that had recently been undertaken by the Licensing Officers.

Members were advised that on 24 February 2023, Licensing Enforcement Officers alongside Officers from South Yorkshire Police had taken part in a night time operation which was focused on Barnsley town centre and the drivers and vehicles that work in the night time economy. Councillor Green, Chair of the General Licensing Regulatory Board, was also in attendance. In total, 21 licensed vehicles and drivers had been inspected on the night, which had included 5 vehicles that were licensed by other local authorities.

The result of the vehicles inspected as part of the operation were as follows:-

- 16 vehicles were found to be fully compliant.
- 2 vehicles were found to have defective lights, being two number plate lights which were inoperative. Both of which were rectified on the night and their licenses had been reinstated.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for failing to display the required door signage.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for having no front nearside door handle and incorrect door signage.
- 1 vehicle was suspended for having no rear brake lights. The vehicle was repaired and had its licence reinstated on the night.
- 5 drivers were issued with written warnings for failing to complete their daily vehicle checks.

- 2 drivers were also spoken to about the signage on the vehicles and reminded of the required standard.

Members noted that today would mark the final Board meeting attended by Councillor Danforth, who would shortly be stepping down as a Councillor. On behalf of the Board, Councillor Green expressed his thanks to Councillor Danforth for all the work he had provided to Board.

RESOLVED that Members supported Officers and encouraged private hire and Hackney Carriage drivers and operators to comply with the conditions of their licence and continue to keep their vehicles as safe as possible for both drivers and customers at all times.

Chair