

REGULATORY PANEL

WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor Ms Williams (Vice-Chairman), Councillors Bainbridge, Mrs Birks, Bowman S, Layden, Morton, Mrs Parsons, Miss Sherriff (as substitute for Councillor Bell), Sidgwick T, Stothard, Tinnion and Wilson

OFFICERS: Assistant Solicitor
Licensing Officer x 2

RP.34/17 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Bell (Chairman).

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.

RP.35/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest affecting the business to be transacted at the meeting.

RP.36/17 PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was agreed that the items of business within Part A be dealt with in public.

RP.37/17 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2017 be approved.

RP.38/17 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES REVIEW

The Licensing Officer submitted the annual Hackney Carriage Fares Review (Report GD.55/17).

The Licensing Officer summarised the background to the annual review, together with the relevant legislation. He explained that the Council's Financial Services Team had produced the changes in the Retail Price Index (RPI) to the identified criteria for transport costs since the last increase. Those changes had been multiplied by the 'weighting' previously agreed with the Taxi Association and an overall increase of 3.28% in transport costs had been identified. The main costs were fuel, labour and insurance. Overall inflation was currently running at 3.6%.

Members' attention was particularly drawn to the Table of Costs set out at Section 2.1 of the report.

In terms of the 2017 – 2018 Tariff, it was proposed that the flagfall be increased by 15p, which would achieve an overall increase of 2.75% on the benchmark 2 mile journey. The local Taxi Association had been consulted and was supportive of that proposal.

The Licensing Officer added that should the recommended increase be approved Carlisle would rank 3rd highest of the 6 Cumbrian Councils for the benchmark 2 mile journey. If no objections were received, or subsequently withdrawn by the closing date of 22 September 2017, the new

tariff would apply from 9 October 2017. Any objections would be heard by the Panel on 11 October 2017 and the tariff would come into force, with or without modification, on 16 October 2017.

In response to a Member's question the Licensing Officer confirmed that, for the reasons outlined, the proposed increase to the Tariff One flagfall was deemed to be fair.

RESOLVED – (1) That the Tariff One flagfall be increased by 15p from £2.85 to £3.00 for the minimum distance of 0.7 mile.

(2) That, if no objections were received or were subsequently withdrawn by the closing date of 22 September 2017, the new tariff would apply from 9 October 2017; any objections would be heard by the Regulatory Panel on 11 October 2017 and the tariff would come into force, with or without modification, on 16 October 2017.

(The meeting ended at 2.05 pm)