

LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE**2 November 2005**Attendance:

Councillors:

Johnston (Chairman) (P)

Allgood (P)
 Bennetts (P)
 Cook (P)
 Evans (P)
 Hammerton (P)
 Lipscomb (P)
 Nelmes (P)

Macmillan (P)
 Mather (P)
 Pearson
 Pines (P)
 Sutton (P)
 Wagner
 Wright

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting:

Councillor Busher

467. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Pearson.

468. **MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Chairman explained that he, the Vice-Chairman and relevant officers had recently met representatives of the District's taxi drivers, and to discuss licensing issues.

Following consideration of the matters raised at that meeting debate the Committee agreed to establish an Informal Member/Officer Working Group to consider and make recommendations regarding, taxi licensing issues, the regulations on taxi vehicles and language skills.

RESOLVED:

That Councillors Johnston, Pines, Nelmes, Mather and Sutton be appointed to the Taxi Licensing and Regulation Informal Member Officer Working Group.

470. **REVIEW OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES**

(Report LR183 refers)

The Chairman explained that Appendix 3 to LR134 (Review of Fares for Hackney Carriages, which was considered at the previous meeting on 22 September 2005) was incorrect, Members were therefore being asked if they wished to reconsider their decision. He reminded Members that at the previous meeting, the Committee had agreed that the pull-off charge should be increased, with a view to ensuring that longer journeys were cheaper, so as to benefit those in rural areas.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr Eckton spoke as a representative of The Winchester Taxi and Private Hire Association. He stated that many Hackney Drivers operating within the District faced financial difficulties and therefore recommended the higher percentage increase, contained in Proposal 1 of the report. He also commented that the proposed increased fares contained within the recommended Proposal 6 were minimal.

Following consideration of all the options, the Committee agreed to accept Proposal 4, noting the increased fuel and other costs which were being borne by drivers.

RESOLVED:

That the fares for Hackney Carriages in the area of Winchester City Council be varied in accordance with Proposal 4 as outlined in Appendix 3 of the above Report (which produced a fare of £3.50 for the first mile and £1.80 for each subsequent mile during the day) with effect from 1 December 2005, subject to the statutory requirements for advertising and dealing with objections.

Distance:

For the first 660 yards (603 metres) or part thereof, £2.30

For each succeeding 200 yards (183 metres) or part thereof, 20p

Waiting Time:

For each period of 1 minute, 25p

Extra Charges:

For each hiring which commences between 11pm and 6am or at any time on bank holidays and public holidays, or after 6.30pm on Christmas Eve, 50% of the above rate of fare.

For each hiring on Christmas Day or, at any time until 6.00am on Boxing Day, 100% of the above rate of the fare.

Fouling charge, £40.00.

The meeting commenced at 6.00pm and concluded at 6.30pm

Chairman