

**LICENSING AND REGULATION COMMITTEE**

**9 June 2011**

Attendance:

Councillors:

Mather (Chairman) (P)

Bodtger (P)  
Izard (P)  
Jackson (P)  
Love (P)  
Mason (P)  
Pearce (P)

Prowse (P)  
Phillips  
Read (P)  
Scott (P)  
Wright (P)

Deputy Members

Councillor Verney (Standing Deputy for Councillor Phillips)

Others in attendance who did not address the meeting

Councillor Witt

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1. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Wright be appointed Vice-Chairman for the 2011/12 Municipal Year.

2. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

RESOLVED:

That the dates and times of future meetings of the Committee be agreed as set out on the agenda.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Committee, held on 28 March 2011, be approved and adopted.

#### 4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Eckton, Mr Smith and Mr Boardman (all representatives from the taxi trade) addressed the Committee during consideration of Report LR365 and their comments are summarised below.

#### 5. **REVIEW OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES** [\(Report LR365 refers\)](#)

Mr Eckton spoke in support of Option 6 of Appendix 3, as this did not increase the pull-off charge and therefore the increase would not be immediately obvious to customers when they entered the car. Mr Eckton explained that this could be of particular benefit to drivers dealing with late-night customers. Mr Eckton also highlighted the recent increased costs to drivers, which were summarised in the Report.

Mr Smith (Wessex Cars) also spoke in support of an increase in the fares, and favoured Option 5 of Appendix 3. Contrary to Mr Eckton's comments above, Mr Smith explained that the increased pull-off charge would be more transparent to customers when they entered the vehicle. He also explained that many of his customers appreciated the increased costs the trade had recently suffered and that the customers subsequently expected an increase in the fares.

Mr Boardman spoke in support of Option 1 of Appendix 3. He underlined the scarcity of business for most drivers and therefore recommended the small increase of 20p on the pull-off charge only, to minimise the potential effect on the trade.

During debate, the Committee discussed the balance between the needs of the drivers to operate a profitable business and their customers' need to realise value for money. The Committee also noted that the fares set by the Council were maximum fares and that drivers were therefore free to set any fare beneath that maximum, if they decided that the market could not bear the increased prices.

At the conclusion of debate, the Committee agreed that there was sufficient justification to increase the fares for the reasons set out in the Report and that they should be increased in accordance with Option 5 of Appendix 3 (as set out below). Members selected this option as they considered that it was more transparent to load the increase onto the pull-off charge.

#### RESOLVED

1. That, subject to the statutory requirements for advertising and dealing with objections, the fares which may be charged by Hackney Carriages in the area of Winchester City Council be varied, with effect from 4 July 2011, as follows:

i) Distance

For the first 660 yards (603 metres) or part thereof, £2.80

For each succeeding 170 yards (155 metres) or part thereof, 20p

ii) Waiting Time

For each period of 1 minute, 25p

iii) Extra Charges

For each hiring which commences between 11pm and 6am or at any time on Bank and Public Holidays or after 6.30pm on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, or at any time on 26 December from 6am, or at any time on 1 January from 6am, an additional 50% is added to the above rate of fare.

For each hiring on Christmas Day or at any time until 6am on Boxing Day an additional 100% is added to the above rate of fare.

Fouling charge, £75.00

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and concluded at 7.05pm

Chairman