

At a meeting of the Licensing Committee held in Theatre - The Wave Centre, Maryport on Tuesday 28 November 2017 at 2.30 pm

Members

Councillor Angela Kendall (Chair)
Councillor Tony Annison
Councillor Len Davies
Councillor Hilary Harrington
Councillor Ron Munby
Councillor Stephen Stoddart

Councillor Peter Bales
Councillor Malcolm Grainger
Councillor Peter Kendall
Councillor Bill Pegram
Councillor Philip Tibble

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Billy Miskelly, Councillor Jacqueline Mounsey, Councillor Janice Wood and Councillor Martin Wood

Staff Present

D Fletcher, K Magnay and J Morgan

256. Declaration of Interests

None declared.

257. Questions

None received.

258. Hackney Carriage Vehicles – Annual Review of Table of Fares

The Licensing and Compliance Officer submitted a report which sought the Committee to consider in light of current economic circumstances whether the table of fares charged by a hackney carriage should have been changed and to what level.

The Licensing and Compliance Officer explained the principal features of a hackney carriage and the regulatory function of the Council in relation to the vehicles and setting the table of fares. The table of fares was the fixed rates of fares within the borough that a hackney carriage proprietor could charge for their services.

The Committee noted that the last variation of the table of fares by the Council was on 1 June 2010.

Members were provided with the existing table of fares and a history of changes to the table of fares dating back to 1999.

The Committee considered the response received from a hackney carriage proprietor, requesting that the table of fares be reviewed and proposing that the rates of fares be increased by 10%.

Members compared the Council with the 365 authorities included in the National Fares Table dated February 2016 and tables of fares from all councils in the county.

The Committee noted extracts from the AA Fuel Price Reports of July 2010 and September 2017 pertaining to the price of unleaded petrol and diesel fuel.

The report provided to the Committee contained fuel price comparisons between filling stations in the North West.

Members noted that if the main domestic measure of inflation, the Retail Price Index (RPI), was applied at 10% as per the suggestion of the taxi proprietor in the responses received, the rate for the first mile would have increased from £2.90 to £3.19 and that if the rate of inflation which had increased from 2010 by 22.7% was applied, the rate for the first mile would increase from £2.90 to £3.56.

The Committee considered the changes to the national minimum and living wages that were to take effect from April 2016.

In summary, the Committee considered the following:

- The representation made from the trade
- The current vehicle and drivers licence fees
- Comparisons of tables of fares nationally and locally
- Extracts from fuel price reports
- Fuel price comparisons within postcodes within the borough
- Retail Price Index figures
- Changes to the national minimum and living wages

The Licensing and Compliance Officer recommended that:

- The table of fares to be given consideration to be increased based on the information contained in the report. The increase in price for fuel and the rate of inflation since 2010 to be noted. The suggestions from the trade put forward a change between £3.00 and £3.50 to the first mile and an increase to every 0.32 kilometre.

Councillor T Annison proposed £3.15 for the first mile and 5% increase across the board.

The Licensing Officer advised Members that the responses from the taxi drivers had proposed a 10% increase for the first mile and 42p thereafter, Kim Stevenson had put forward £3.00 for the first mile and Davies Taxis had put forward £3.50 for the first mile and 45p thereafter and also requested tariff 2 to come into effect at 11pm rather than midnight.

Councillor P Tibble proposed a 10% increase making the first mile £3.20

Councillor T Annison withdrew his proposal of 5% and seconded Councillor P Tibble's proposal.

Councillor P Bales moved to increase the fare to £3.20 for the first mile and 45p thereafter, waiting time to 45p and articles of luggage to 20p, Councillor P Bales also moved that tariff 2 to commence at 11pm.

Councillor P Tibble seconded.

A vote was taken: 9 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions.

The motion was carried.

Recommended

That Council be requested to agree that the Table of Fares:

- a) Increase by 10% to £3.20
- b) Tariff 2 to commence at 11pm

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm