

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEEMonday, 1 June 2015 (6:00 pm – 6:24 pm)PRESENT:

Councillor Winstanley (Chair); Councillors Clarke, Irish, Olson, Pretty and R Smith

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors House, Mrs Sollitt, Sollitt and Mrs Welsh

RESOLVED ITEMS (SUBJECT TO QUESTIONS ONLY)27. MINUTES**RESOLVED -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in relation to items of business on the agenda.

29. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES INCREASE

Consideration was given to the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services (agenda item 4) which set out details of the objection received to the proposed advertised fare increase sought for hackney carriages by the Trade.

Members were advised that the third recommendation had been amended to read "The new Hackney Carriage fare is enforced with immediate effect from 1 June 2015".

This report had originally been presented to this Committee on 16 February 2015, where it had been agreed to implement the charges on 1 April 2015, subject to no objections being received to the advertisement in the local newspaper on 22 February 2015.

An objection however had been received and this was now before Members for consideration. It cited that, in the objector's opinion, the figures were not accurate; new vehicles were fuel efficient; fuel had come down; the Trade had not been consulted by the forum representatives; and the public did not have enough disposable cash which could impact on the Trade if the fares increased.

A number of appendices and documentation were attached to the report, these included details of the existing and proposed fares; the National Averages; the National League tables of fares; two letters from the objector; and additional survey analysis from the Trade in support of the fare increase.

RESOLVED –

- (1) That the objection to the proposed tariff be dismissed;**
- (2) That the proposed table of fares be approved; and**
- (3) That the new Hackney Carriage fare be enforced with immediate effect from 1 June 2015.**

(NOTE: (1) The Hackney Carriage objector reiterated his earlier comments, adding that he had a petition of 38 names who were opposed to the increase; he worked on the town centre rank and the number of customers had dropped considerably because taxis were expensive; salaries were lower; inflation was down; and if fare increases were to happen he could go out of business. (2) Three members of the Hackney Carriage trade spoke in support of the proposed fare increase stating that their survey had resulted in overwhelming majority support; it had been their first submission since 2011; the Trade was not being unreasonable with its request; objectors did not have to charge the new rate; the demographics of town centre had changed, footfall was down everywhere; all adjoining authorities already had locked-down meters; and the objector had misled the 38 people named on his objection petition by informing them that if there was no fare increase they would then not have to pay for their meters to be 'locked-down', which stopped drivers from being unscrupulous. Subsequently, when comparing signatures on both petitions attached to the agenda, the 38 names on the objector's petition would be reduced to 16).

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