

MINUTES OF THE  
REGULATORY COMMITTEE

held on 20 October 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor L. Mascot (Chair)

Councillors R.H. Ambor, L. Ashley, D.G. Jones, R.J. Lee, I.C. Roberts and S.J. Scott

The Committee observed a minutes silence in memory of Cllr John Galley, the Mayor of Chelmsford who had recently passed away.

1. [Apologies for Absence](#)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Davidson, Frascona and Millane.

2. [Minutes](#)

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3. [Declaration of Interests](#)

All Members were reminded to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda. None were made.

4. [Public Question Time](#)

A member of the taxi trade attended the meeting to present the petition for Item 5 and spoke at that point in the meeting.

5. [Application for an Increase in Fares \(Tariff\) Charged by Hackney Carriages](#)

The Committee were asked to consider a request submitted for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Fares. They were asked to determine whether or not to approve the proposal for wider consultation. It was noted that if any objections were received that these would be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Committee were informed that the application was to add a surcharge to the current tariff when a vehicle was used by five or more passengers. This had been petitioned for as larger vehicles were more costly to purchase and operate, and two other authorities in Essex had already adopted the approach.

The Committee were informed of the options available to them ;

- Support the proposal as submitted and approve the tariff increase for consultation and implemented in accordance with the proposed timescale where no objections are received,
- Modify the proposal and approve the modified tariff increase for consultation and implemented in accordance with the proposed timescale where no objections are received.
- Not to approve any form of increase to the current tariff

The Committee heard from the member of the taxi trade who had submitted the petition. The following points were made;

- The petition had been put forward as drivers were concerned about the long term affordability of larger vehicles.
- The larger vehicles were very important as they are multi seater, wheelchair accesible vehicles, if they came off the fleet this would affect residents.

In response to questions from the Committee, it was noted that;

- Officers would come back to the Committee with further information on the two other authorites who had adopted a similar approach. It was also noted that if this showed substantial differences to the proposal, then the Licensing Authority could make a representation during the consultation period.
- Four passengers travelling in a saloon style vehicle would for example pay £40, split four ways equalling £10 each. Under the new proposal six passengers in a multi seater vehicle would pay £60, but split 6 ways still equalling £10 each.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposal and for the 14-day consultation period to start on the 27<sup>th</sup> October.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee agreed to support the proposal a submitted and approve the tariff increase for consultation and to be implemented in accordance with the proposed timescale if no objections were received.

*(7.03pm to 7.13pm)*

## 6. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.13pm

Chair