

MINUTES OF THE
REGULATORY COMMITTEE

held on 8 December 2022 at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor L. Mascot (Chair)

Councillors R.H. Ambor, L. Ashley, D.J.R. Clark, A.E. Davidson, J.A. Frasca, A.M. John
D.G. Jones, T.E. Roper and S.J. Scott

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lee and Roberts.

2. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 October 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 speak in support of the petition for Item 5 and spoke at that point in the meeting.

5. **Consultation re Increase in Taxi (Hackney Carriage) Fares - Tariff**

The Committee considered a report detailing the feedback and representations made in support of and against the tariff petition that had been received initially on 23rd August 2022. The Committee were informed that the proposed change would provide additional tariff changes when vehicles were hired by more than five persons and was detailed at Appendix B. It was noted that three other Essex authorities had adopted a similar approach.

The Committee were informed that the proposed tariff had been advertised correctly in the local paper, online and in the Council's public offices. It was noted that three representations had been received objecting to the new tariff and were detailed at Appendix D. It was also noted that four comments had been received in favour and were detailed at Appendix E.

The Committee were informed of the following options which were available to them;

- Accept the proposed tariff changes, or

- Modify the proposed tariff changes, or
- Refuse the proposed tariff changes and modify the proposed tariff to reflect the existing tariff.

The member of the Taxi Trade, who had submitted the initial petition addressed the Committee. The Committee heard that the small number of objections, three from over 100k Chelmsford residents, highlighted that there were not significant objections to the proposed tariff changes. The Committee also heard that the four comments in support from members of the public, showed support amongst members of the public.

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

- The proposed tariff would mean five people in a Multi Seater Vehicle would pay more than four people in a saloon style vehicle but this would still be cheaper than two saloon vehicles.
- The lower or higher tariff dependant on the amount of passengers, would be set at the beginning of a journey and that tariff would stay in place for the duration. This meant that if extra people were picked up on route the tariff would still stay at the lower price.

The Committee agreed that the initial petition had significant support and were therefore happy to agree the proposals.

RESOLVED that the Committee agreed to accept the proposed tariff changes detailed at Appendix B to the report.

(7.01pm to 7.18pm)

6. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm

Chair