

LICENSING AND ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING : Tuesday, 17th January 2012

PRESENT : Cllrs. Noakes (Chair), Porter (Vice-Chair), Durrant, Lugg, Ravenhill, Field, Dallimore, Hansdot, Mozol and Patel

Officers in Attendance

Gill Ragon, Group Manager, Environmental Health and Regulatory Services

Steve Isaac, Solicitor

Lisa Wilkes, Food Safety and Licensing Service Manager

Sonia Tucker, Democratic Services Officer (Secretary)

APOLOGIES : Cllrs. Tracey, C. Witts and Toleman

19. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Jan Lugg to the Committee who had replaced Councillor Declan Wilson following a review of Committee allocations. The Committee expressed their thanks to Councillor Wilson for his past services.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

21. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2011 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

22. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES)

23. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (10 MINUTES, MAXIMUM 3 MINUTES PER PERSON)

24. LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF

The report before Members outlined an objection to the proposed tariff changes for Hackney Carriage fares which had been published on 28th November 2011. The Committee was asked to consider if they wished to amend the proposed tariff changes in the light of the objection or allow the new tariffs to be implemented, without amendment, from 1st February, 2012.

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. empowered the City Council to set the hackney carriage fares which had been frozen in May 2011. The tariffs had been unchanged since May 2010.

In October 2011, Gloucester Hackney Carriage Association (GHCA) submitted a request for an increase of approximately 8% to all tariff rates, with an agreement that the fares could be reviewed in 6 months time, if appropriate. The GHCA had

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requested the increase to mitigate the rise in the cost of living, fuel, vehicle maintenance and insurance premiums.

Members were advised of the formula which had been used to estimate the increase and the various factors which had been taken into account in the calculation. Comparisons had been drawn with neighbouring authorities in the south-west region.

Following publication of the new tariffs on 28th November there followed a statutory consultation period of 14 days. A letter had been received from the Manager of Associated Taxis dated 8th December 2011 which objected to the proposal.

The Licensing and Enforcement Manager reminded the Committee that they had the option of making no changes to the proposed published tariffs or that they could determine, in the light of the objection, that the tariffs should either remain the same or be modified further. Any change needed to take effect before 12th February 2012. However, the published proposals reflected the changes requested by GHCA and the officer recommendation was to accept the published tariff proposals and to implement them, without amendment, from 1st February 2012.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th March 2012 at 18.30 hours.

Time of commencement: 18:30 hours

Time of conclusion: 19:10 hours

Chair