

Monday 26 September 2005
at 6.00pm

General Licensing Sub-Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor Mrs MURRAY (Chairman); Councillors Mrs POOLEY (as substitute for Harris) and TAYLOR (as substitute for Lacey OBE).

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Harris and Lacey).

10 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2005 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

11 Declarations of Interest.

None were received.

12 Determination of Fare Structure for all Taxis within the Eastbourne Area.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding objections received in response to a new table of fares agreed at the Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 July 2005.

All taxi proprietors had been consulted as part of the process to consider changes to the existing fare/tariff system and the Sub-Committee had considered four options submitted by the trade.

A number of representations had been received in response to the public notice, published in the Eastbourne Herald on 3 August 2005 from representatives of the trade and a member of the public. Details of the concerns raised in respect of the proposed new tariff were attached as an appendix to the report.

Concerns had been raised with regard to the maximum extra charge of £5 proposed and the potential for use by unscrupulous members of the trade who may seek to overcharge the public. This charge had been instigated to enable drivers of larger vehicles to participate in removal work.

The Multi-Seater/Wheelchair Accessibility drivers from Eastbourne and Country had highlighted the fact that these vehicles were excluded from obtaining any "extra charges" where they fall within the 5-8 band tariffs. The new tariff proposed reducing the maximum extras charge to £2, which would apply to all rates and include a surcharge of £5 for removals. This

would be charged separately from the metered fare and would be easier to enforce and understand, since the travelling public would know exactly what they were expected to pay for a journey related to distance and time of day, as opposed to the amount of luggage they may have. It was noted that many authorities do not have the extras charge because it could lead to ambiguity and potential abuse.

Details of the tariff structure approved at the meeting on 5 July and a proposed new structure recommended as a result of the representations received were set out in the report.

Mr P Smith, Mr R Doxford, (Eastbourne and Country) and Mr M Reeves (independent proprietor) addressed the Sub-Committee with regard to their representations as detailed within the report and the recent fuel increases.

The Committee sought clarification of the first mile charge and agreed the following amendments based on the objections received and in the light of the recent fuel increases.

RESOLVED (1) That the fare table at figure 3 be agreed as amended as per representations received.

(2) That a further 20p be added to the first mile on Rates 1-3.

13 Exclusion of the Public.

RESOLVED: That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A is shown beneath the item.

14 Confidential Minutes of the Meeting held on 2 August 2005.

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2005 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

(Exempt information reason - Para 7 - Personal information).

The meeting closed at 7.05p.m.

**Mrs A Murray
Chairman**