

General Licensing Committee

MEMBERS: Councillor Mrs MORRIS (Chairman) Councillor THOMPSON (Deputy Chairman), Councillors BLOOM, ELKIN, Mrs GOODALL, GOODWIN, GOODYEAR, HARRIS, Mrs HEAPS, Mrs MADELL, Mrs POOLEY, and Miss WOODALL.

(Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Belsey and Salisbury).

4 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2008 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

5 Declaration of Interests.

None were received.

6 Determination of Taxi Fare Structure.

The Committee considered the report of the Licensing Manager regarding changes to the hackney carriage fare structure and options in respect of the level of fares to be charged.

The last fare tariff revision and associated increase was implemented in June 2007 and a fuel surcharge of 30 pence per journey was agreed on 26 June 2008 as an interim measure to offset the increase in fuel prices.

At its meeting on 20 August 2008 the Committee agreed a simplified fare tariff card which dispensed with the "extras" charging system and which would be easier for the travelling public to understand.

The trade had been consulted on the level of fares to be charged and although the majority of the trade were keen to retain the current fare tariff format, they had put forward a number of proposals in respect of the new tariff card, details of which were set out in the report. A number of respondents had also made individual comments regarding the revised tariff structure.

Mr B Morris, Mr K Jeffries, Mr R Doxford, Mr M Reeves and Mr P Smith addressed the Committee on the proposals.

The Licensing Manager advised the Committee that the inclusion of an incentive rate within the fare tariff to encourage individuals to work on a Sunday was supported.

The Committee discussed the rates to be charged and a number of suggested modifications, which included a charge for the transportation of domestic pets and an enhanced rate for Sundays.

RESOLVED: (1) That, subject to the following amendments, the fare tariff detailed as Option D in the report be approved.

(2) That the Licensing Manager be authorised to make the necessary changes to the fare tariff and, subject to no objections being made in response to the public advertisement, the revised fare tariff be implemented.

(i) Transportation per domestic pets £1. No charge for registered assistance dogs.

(ii) Tariff – 3rd column amended to “per mile up to 5 miles”

(iii) Insertion of new rate 2 –

Time period (6am – 11pm Sundays & Bank Holidays)
Meter at start (£3.00); Other charges to be the same as rate 1

Additional wording to read “These tariffs apply in Eastbourne licensed vehicles. Payment for services must not exceed these metered rates”.

7 Licensing Initiatives.

The Licensing Manager reported that East Sussex Downs Weald NHS Primary Care Trust had allocated £20,000 to the Healthy Eastbourne Board for a number of initiatives which included the promotion of safer socialising. A card had been produced which provided practical tips and would be circulated via taxi offices and pubs and clubs in the town.

The Committee was advised of an initiative to take care of people who were in need of aid in the town centre. A Safe Haven bus would provide a safe retreat for drunken or distressed people, which would be parked outside Debenhams in Terminus Road on Friday and Saturday nights between 10.00pm and 2.00am. Trained staff would be available to assess the needs of anyone attending and could provide basic first aid and arrange safe transport home if required.

RESOLVED: That the new licensing initiatives for Eastbourne be welcomed.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Mrs S Morris
Chairman