

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL
LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Licensing and Regulatory Committee** held on Wednesday, 26 April at 1:30 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C Humphrey
(Vice Chair, in the Chair)

MEMBERS

T Cessford
J Foster
B Gallacher
C Hardy

K Parry
C Seymour
A Sharp
M Swinbank
A Wallace

OFFICERS

H Bowers
M Bulman
T Hardy
D Wilson

Democratic Services Officer
Solicitor
Licensing Manager
Business Compliance and Public
Safety Manager

21. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Beynon, Chicken and Lee.

22. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee held on Wednesday 15 February 2023, as circulated be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

23. SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Licensing and Regulatory Subcommittee held on 16 February, be received for information.

Ch.'s Initials.....

24. REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND PUBLIC PROTECTION

(a) Hackney Carriage Review Tariff 2023

Members were updated on the consultation following the agreement of the Committee on 15 February to increase the Hackney Carriage tariff of fares, and in doing so, determine whether there are grounds to adopt a different approach to that which was agreed and consulted upon.

A request was made to record the thanks of members for the hard work carried out by the Licensing team.

Members were reminded that the tariff had last been reviewed in 2022, where it had been agreed on an increase of 5% with an agreement to review after 12 months.

The Licensing & Regulatory Committee on 15 February 2023, had agreed to increase the tariff by approximately 5% and authorised the licensing section to consult with the licensed trade and publish the required public notices.

Responses/comments were attached in Appendix A to the report.

In response to questions, the following comments were made:

- The re-setting the meter was carried out independently
- Public notices were published accordingly and approximately 1000 people were invited to comment.
- Drivers could charge more, but this would only come into effect if there was more than 4 passengers

Councillor Parry moved acceptance of the proposed revised hackney carriage tariff of 5%, this was seconded by Councillor Gallacher and unanimously agreed.

Councillor Foster proposed that the tariff to come into force on 22 May, this was seconded by Councillor Sharp and unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that:

1. The proposed revised hackney carriage tariff increase of 5% be agreed.
2. The tariff to come into force on 22 May 2023.

The Chair conveyed his thanks to Phil Soderquest, Director of Housing and Public Protection who was leaving the authority for all the hard work he had contributed to licensing committees. This was echoed by members.

25. NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED that the next meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory on Wednesday 14 June 2023, be noted.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____