

Medway Council
Meeting of Licensing Sub-Committee
Friday, 22 April 2022
2.30pm to 2.55pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

Present: Councillors: Mrs Diane Chambers (Chairman), Fearn (Vice-Chairman), Sylvia Griffin, McDonald and Prenter

In Attendance: Mandy Francis, Licensing Manager
Nigel Jackson, Chairman, MLTDA
Venky Krishnan, Licensing and Litigation Lawyer
Stephen Platt, Democratic Services Officer

839 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kemp and Mahil.

840 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 4 February 2022 was agreed and signed by the Chairman.

841 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

842 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

843 Review of Hackney Carriage Tariff

Discussion:

The Sub-Committee considered a report on the outcome of the recent consultation with the Medway licenced taxi trade on whether or not the Hackney Carriage fare tariff should be reviewed. Members were advised that, of the 263 responses received, 193 were in favour of a review and 70 were not.

The Chairman invited Nigel Jackson, the Chairman of the Medway Licensed Taxi Drivers Association (MLTDA) to address the Sub-Committee. He referred to a division within the Hackney Carriage trade on the issue of a fare tariff increase as rising costs had to be balanced against the need to remain competitive with Uber. Mr Jackson requested that, in addition to the three options for an increase submitted by the MLTDA, a fourth option – no increase in tariff – be added to broaden the consultation. He also asked that the Association assist with the consultation and the Licensing Manager confirmed that this would be permissible, provided the consultation was led by the Council.

The Committee also discussed the issue of contactless payment for fares. Mr Jackson advised that the results of an MLTDA consultation two years ago had shown 52% of respondents to be in favour of contactless payment and 48% against. The main area of concern at that time had been the number of areas within Medway with a poor signal, although he noted that, due to network upgrades, signal strength was now much better.

Decision:

The Sub-Committee:

- a) considered the results of the tariff poll and agreed to proceed with a review of the current taxi tariff;
- b) considered the tariff suggestions submitted by the Medway Licenced Taxi Drivers Association;
- b) authorised officers to consult the taxi trade on its preferred option, A, B or C, or additional option D - no increase in tariff - via email, the results of which would be brought back to a future meeting of the Licensing Sub-Committee; and
- d) agreed that a report on contactless payment for fares be considered at a future meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Licensing Sub-Committee, 22 April 2022

Chairman

Date:

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