

Regulatory Committee

Wednesday 14 April 2010 7.30pm

**Council Chamber
Runnymede Civic Centre, Addlestone**

**Please note that this meeting takes place immediately after
the Licensing Committee**

Members of the Committee

Councillors D W Parr (Chairman), Mrs F J Barden (Vice-Chairman), R J Edis, Mrs M T Harnden and Mrs M Roberts.

In accordance with Standing Order 29.2 any non-member of the Committee who is considering attending the meeting should first request the permission of the Chairman.

A G E N D A

Notes:

- i) Any report on the Agenda involving confidential information (as defined by section 100A(3) of the Local Government Act 1972) must be discussed in private. Any report involving exempt information (as defined by section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972), whether it appears in Part 1 or Part 2 below, may be discussed in private but only if the Committee so resolves.
- ii) The relevant "background papers" are listed after each report in Part 1. Enquiries about any of the Agenda reports and background papers should be directed in the first instance to **Miss C Pinnock, Department of Administration and Leisure, Committee Section, Civic Centre, Station Road, Addlestone (Tel. Direct Line: 01932 425627). (Email: clare.pinnock@runnymede.gov.uk).**
- iii) Agendas and Minutes are available on a subscription basis. For details, please ring Mr B A Fleckney on 01932 425620. Agendas and Minutes for all the Council's Committees may also be viewed on www.runnymede.gov.uk.
- iv) In the unlikely event of an alarm sounding, members of the public should leave the building immediately, either using the staircase leading from the public gallery or following other instructions as appropriate.

see overleaf

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বাঙলা

আপনি যদি ইংরেজি পড়তে বা বলতে না পারেন, ও এই লেখাটি পড়তে যদি আপনার কোনও সাহায্য লাগে তাহলে অনুগ্রহ করে 01483 750548 নাম্বারে উইটস্ লিঙ্কলাইন (WITS Linkline)-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন ও আপনার নিজের ভাষায় একটা মেসেজ রাখুন।

简体中文

如果您无法阅读或说英语，需要协助以明白此文件，请与和景翻译服务处之语言专线连络 01483 750548，并用您的母语留下讯息。

Italiano

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اردو

اگر آپ انگریزی زبان پڑھ اور بول نہیں سکتے ہیں اور آپ کو اس دستاویز کو سمجھنے میں دقت پیش آتی ہے؛ تو برائے مہربانی سے وٹس لنک لائن کو اس نمبر 01483 750548 پر رابطہ کریں اور اپنی زبان میں اپنا پیغام چھوڑیں۔

Polski

Jeżeli nie potrafisz czytać lub mówić po angielsku i potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu, proszę skontaktować się z Linją Telefoniczną WITS pod numerem 01483 750548, zostawiając wiadomość w języku ojczystym.

Español

Si no puede leer o hablar inglés, y necesita ayuda para entender este documento, por favor contacte a WITS Linkline al 01483 750548 y deje un recado en su idioma.

LIST OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

PART I

Matters in respect of which reports have been made available for public inspection

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PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

- a) Exempt Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)
- b) Confidential Information
(No reports to be considered under this heading)

1. FIRE PRECAUTIONS

The Chairman will read the Fire Precautions which set out the procedures to be followed in the event of fire or other emergency.

2. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

3. MINUTES

To confirm and sign, as correct records, the Minutes of the meetings of the Committee held on 28 January and 9 February 2010 which were included in the March 2010 Minute Book, previously circulated.

4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

If Members have an interest in an item please record the interest on the form circulated with this Agenda and hand it to the Legal Representative or Committee Administrator at the start of the meeting. A supply of the form will also be available from the Committee Administrator at meetings.

Members who have previously declared interests which are recorded in the Minutes to be considered at this meeting need not repeat the declaration when attending the meeting. Members need take no further action unless the item in which they have an interest becomes the subject of debate, in which event the Member must leave the room if the interest is personal and prejudicial.

6. FINANCIAL MONITORING STATEMENT (DF)

(Ref: Minutes of Regulatory Committee, November 2009, page 388, para 407)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the latest financial projections for the 2009/10 financial year for regulatory services.**

2. Background Information

2.1 The Financial Monitoring Statement was introduced to all Committees in September 2006 to inform Members of the current financial position of the services under the remit of each Committee.

2.2 Each statement reflects an updated position based upon the 2009/10 probable estimates and the 2010/11 original estimates approved by this Committee in January. The projection in the Financial Forecast approved by Corporate Management Committee in October 2009 has been updated accordingly.

3. Report

3.1 The statement attached at Appendix 'A' is split into three distinct parts:

- Projected budget and forecast
- Savings still to be delivered
- Current year key budget indicators

3.2 The Projected budget and forecast sections show any anticipated variations in the current year's budget. These variations are categorised as approved changes and other potential changes. Implications for the following three years are included for completeness so that the full-year effect of any changes can be seen.

3.3 The achievement of the revenue reductions programme approved by the Council is one of the Council's key performance indicators. Savings targets are reported in the second section of each statement. These savings are all incorporated into the projected budget and forecast figures in section one.

- 3.4 The final section sets out the key budget indicators for the significant areas of this Committee's budget. This indicates the actual income received set against the amount expected (the budget) for the period covered by each statement. Whilst this shows some minor variations for the period, it is anticipated that these are purely timing issues and are not expected to affect the final outturn position.

(FOR INFORMATION)

Background Papers

None stated.

7. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 (DTS)

(Ref: Minutes of Regulatory Committee, January 2008, page 695, para 493, January 2009, page 716, para 462 and page 717, para 463, and January 2010, page 511, para 540)

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 **The purpose of this report is to reconsider a proposal to increase the level of fare tariffs charged by Hackney Carriage and Private Hire vehicles fitted with a taximeter.**

2. Background Information

- 2.1 Following a comprehensive survey with the Taxi Trade in November 2006 and an open forum in December 2006, it was agreed that Officers would recommend a review of the fare tariff by the Council on an annual basis. An additional rate of 1¼ was also introduced for Sundays and late evenings between 2200hrs and midnight from April 2007 onwards. (The night rate between midnight and 0600hrs remained at 1½)
- 2.2 Previously, tariff changes had been made on an ad hoc basis in response to requests for a review from the trade.
- 2.3 Calendar control has been compulsory for all vehicles fitted with taximeters since April 2007. Drivers can no longer manually select one of the four rates programmed, dependant on the time of day and whether or not it is a public holiday.
- 2.4 Calendar control eliminates the possibility of errors being made, either by mistake or otherwise, and may be programmed with public holidays and BST/GMT up to three years in advance. Tariff changes may also be programmed to take place ahead of the due date with some taximeters, easing the burden on the trade and Council resources.
- 2.5 Members will recall that in January 2009 this Committee resolved that the proposed fare increase (approximately 5%) be postponed until 1 April 2010, subject to any earlier petition or relevant representations being received.

3. Report

- 3.1 The proposed tariff change, as attached at Appendix 'B', and scheduled to take place on 1 April 2010, was advertised in the local newspapers on 4 February 2010, as required by Section 65 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3.2 A letter, as attached at Appendix 'C', was received from a Hackney Carriage driver during the 28 day public consultation period, objecting to any fare increase, and citing the names of five other drivers who were also opposed to a fare increase.
- 3.3 As a result of the objection, a consultation letter and questionnaire, as attached at Appendix 'D', was circulated to the 193 Hackney Carriage and Private Hire proprietors who have a taximeter fitted to their vehicle asking whether or not they supported the proposed fare increase to be introduced as soon as possible.
- 3.4 53 (27%) of drivers replied to the survey; 26 (49%) in favour of an increase and 27 (51%) against. 41 of the replies were from Hackney Carriage drivers and the remaining 12 from Private Hire drivers. The preference for a fare change bore very little significance to the type of vehicle used.

- 3.5 With close to a 50/50 split between drivers for and against an increase, and 73% of drivers not replying to the survey there appears to be no clear wish either for or against a tariff change at the moment.
- 3.6 There have been no representations received from the customer section of the general public; nor has there been any direct consultation on this occasion. However, Officers assume that, if asked, customers would be unlikely to want to pay more, and those who do are at liberty to give a gratuity.
- 3.7 Conversely, one could argue that the fare shown on a taximeter is the maximum that a driver may charge, and those who wish to accept a lower fare are equally free to do so. Indeed, a fare which takes the journey out of the Borough, typically to an airport, is generally set at a lower, pre-arranged rate.
- 3.8 The latest available Consumer Prices Increase (CPI) shows 3% for the year to February 2010. Drivers have not had a tariff change since April 2008. Given the response from the trade, Officers consider that any increase in fares should be postponed for a further year, or until such time as representations are received from the trade for an earlier increase, and that the current rates continue to apply.

4. Council Policy

- 4.1 It is custom and practice to review Hackney Carriage Fares either at the request of Hackney Carriage proprietors or in the event of increases in costs experienced by the trade.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 If an increase in fares is approved arrangements would have to be made for all the meters to be adjusted and tested against the measured mile. There are 193 Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles fitted with taximeters.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, permits local authorities to set fares for Hackney Carriages. This legislation also requires that the proposed changes be published in a local newspaper prior to implementation. As a result of the advertising if any objections are received these would have to be considered by this Committee.
- 6.2 [The current fares have applied since April 2008. If no change is approved, there is no requirement for them to be advertised.](#)

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

the proposed table of Hackney Carriage Fares previously scheduled to take place on 1 April 2010 be not implemented and the current fare rates continue to apply.

(TO RESOLVE)

Background Papers

Correspondence held within the Licensing Department with the trade

8. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

If Members are minded to consider any of the foregoing items in private, it is the

OFFICERS' RECOMMENDATION that –

where appropriate the press and public be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following report under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that the report(s) in question would be

likely to involve disclosure of exempt information of the description specified in the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

(TO RESOLVE)

PART II

Matters involving Exempt or Confidential Information in respect of which reports have not been made available for public inspection.

a) Exempt Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)

b) Confidential Information

(No reports to be considered under this heading)