

## LICENSING PANEL

# Friday 1 August 2003

PRESENT:-

Councillor Mrs POOLEY (Chairman); Councillors BOWKER and MARSH.

**6. MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2003 were submitted and approved and the Chairman was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

(NOTE: URGENT ITEM: By virtue of Section 100B(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Chairman was of the opinion that the following item, not listed on the agenda, should be considered as a matter of urgency to enable a decision in respect of the application to be considered as soon as possible).

**7. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE APPLICATION.** The Panel considered the report of the Head of Environmental Health regarding a joint proposal submitted by Mr M Reeves and Eastbourne and Country for an increase in hackney carriage fares, which was deferred at the meeting held on 27 June 2003.

The details of the current and proposed tariffs of the joint application were detailed in appendix 1 of the report and sought a general increase in fares, although not by a consistent percentage across all journeys. The applicants confirmed that the charging of extras would not be included on Rates 3 and 4.

The Head of Environmental Health advised Members that the findings of the Taxi and Private Hire Scrutiny Review and its conclusions should be taken into account. The proposal weighted the fare increase on daytime and early evening journeys, rather than night time journeys, which would reduce the incentive to work at night contrary to the findings of the Scrutiny Review. The Head of Environmental Health also raised concerns regarding the lack of information in relation to the average percentage increase in earnings being sought and the absence of any projected changes in motoring costs and earnings in the setting of fare levels into 2005.

The Head of Environmental Health also advised Members of the findings of the latest Alliance and Leicester and What Car? Car Price Index which identified a continuation of the downward trend in the cost of new and used cars.

Mr I Wake and Mr B Morris addressed the Panel in support of the joint proposal, which they confirmed would be implemented for a 2-year period if approved. The applicants had submitted supporting information, which was detailed in appendix 2 of the report. In addition, they confirmed that the proposal would lead to an average increase in earnings of 4.4% "

The Head of Environmental Health reported that the use of rolling road facilities for meter testing would be investigated following the concerns expressed by the Trade representatives.

The Panel supported the increase on the basis that a further application would not be submitted until early 2005, as stated by the applicants. Comment was made on the importance of the applicants providing all the necessary information to assist in the formulation and assessment of applications, including the projected changes in running costs used to formulate fare changes.

**RESOLVED:** That the application for hackney carriage fares from the trade as detailed in appendix 1 of the report be approved and implemented, subject to no objections being made in response to the public advertisement.

## **8. 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.

## **9. SUMMARY OF CONFIDENTIAL PROCEEDINGS FOR INFORMATION.**

(NOTE: The full minutes of the under-mentioned item is set out in the confidential section of these minutes. The report to the Panel and the Panel's deliberations remain confidential).

**APPLICATION FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE DRIVER'S LICENCE.** The Panel deferred an application for a driver's licence to a future meeting of the Licensing Panel.

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

The meeting closed at 3.35 p.m.

Mrs M POOLEY

Chairman

kc/licensingpanel/minutes/03.08.01