

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE** held as a Virtual Teams Meeting on Friday, 11 December 2020 at 9:30am

PRESENT:

Councillor: Mark Newman (Chair)
Sue Carpendale (Vice-Chair)

Councillors: Sue Ayres Peter Beer
Jane Gould Margaret Maybury
John Nunn

In attendance:

Officers: David Price – Licensing Officer
Emma Richbell – Assistant Manager, Food, Safety and Licensing
Nigel Dulieu – Legal Advisor
Karen Sayer – Governance Officer

Apologies:

Siân Dawson
Kathryn Grandon

6 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

6.1 There were no declarations of interest.

7 BLR/20/4 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 OCTOBER 2020

It was **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 9 October 2020 be confirmed as a true record and signed at the next practicable opportunity.

8 TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF PETITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S PETITION SCHEME

8.1 None received.

9 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

9.1 None received.

10 BLR/20/5 TABLE OF FARES FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGES

- 10.1 David Price, Licensing Officer presented Paper BLR/20/5 to the Committee. The report considered responses received during the public consultation exercise in respect of the revised table of fares fixed for Hackney Carriages operating in the controlled zone of the Babergh District, which the Licensing and Regulatory Committee had approved for public consultation at its meeting on 9 October 2020.
- 10.2 Officers had undertaken the statutory public consultation exercise as instructed by the Committee at its meeting on 9 October 2020. The Committee, in accordance with the 1976 Act, had two options to consider as detailed in paragraph 2.1 of the report, having had due regard for objections received which were attached to the report as Appendix C.
- 10.3 The Licensing Officer answered questions from Councillor Maybury regarding the public consultation exercise and the responses received.
- 10.4 Emma Richbell, Assistant Manager - Food, Safety and Licensing advised the Committee that a virtual meeting took place earlier in the year, between the initial consultation and the most recent one, where all of the 'trade' were invited to participate in a 'round table' discussion and information from that meeting was fed into the report.
- 10.5 The Assistant Manager - Food, Safety and Licensing answered questions from Councillor Maybury regarding the virtual meeting with the 'trade' and how many drivers were in attendance.
- 10.6 Councillor Maybury asked for it to be noted that she had requested to be included in the meeting with the 'trade', but she had not received an invitation. She also apologised to the taxi operators as she was not involved in the meeting.
- 10.7 Councillor Beer stated that he had also requested to be involved in the meeting but had not been invited.
- 10.8 The Licensing Officer answered questions from Councillor Beer regarding the public consultation exercise and the responses received.
- 10.9 The Committee considered the two options set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.
- 10.10 Councillor Newman proposed Option 1 as detailed in the report. Councillor Carpendale seconded the proposal.
- 10.11 During the debate it was noted that the fares will be reviewed annually, and a report brought back to Committee if necessary.

10.12 Councillor Maybury referred to Mr Hale's representation contained in Appendix C, particularly in respect of charges for larger vehicles and possible discrimination for disabled users. It was confirmed that drivers are aware that they can charge less than the maximum table of fares.

10.13 The vote was taken electronically and was unanimous.

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET:

That the revised table of fares attached as Appendix A to Paper BLR/20/5 be adopted, to become effective on 5 April 2021, in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

The business of the meeting was concluded at 9.58 am.

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Chair