

LICENSING COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of the Licensing Committee held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 3 August 2022 at 2.02 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ian Dickson, Gurpreet Singh Johal, June McKay, Chris Pollock and Hazel Sorrell.

Attending: Nigel Ettles, Section Head – Litigation; Robert Mackie, Senior Officer (Licensing Services); and Lynn Straker, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Kenny McSheaffrey, Charles Murray, Gerry McAllister (Clydebank Taxi Operators Group), Allan MacLeod (Taxi Operator/Driver) and Paul Martin (Taxi Driver).

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Diane Docherty, John Millar and Lawrence O'Neill and Sergeant David Holmes, Police Scotland.

Councillor Gurpreet Singh Johal in Chair

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 8 June 2022 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

CLYDEBANK TAXI FARE REVIEW

A report was submitted by the Chief Officer – Regulatory and Regeneration providing details on the review of fares and charges applicable to taxis operating within the Clydebank Taxi Licensing Zone.

The Principal Solicitor summarised the contents of the report and invited Mr MacLeod to address the Committee.

It had been intimated prior to the Meeting that both Paul Martin and Charles Murray wished to make representations to the Committee although they had not submitted a representation, members agreed to allow both parties to address the Committee in addition to Mr MacLeod and Mr McSheaffrey.

Mr MacLeod requested that the order in which parties were allowed to speak be altered so that he could respond to any submission put forward by Mr McSheaffrey, Members refused this request but advised Mr MacLeod that he would be able to address any points raised by Mr McSheaffrey if required.

The Committee then heard from Mr MacLeod in relation to his representation.

The Committee then heard from Mr McSheaffrey who asked Members to consider some additional changes separate from what they had proposed at the earlier meeting in April 2022.

Mr MacLeod was then allowed to respond.

The Committee then heard from Mr Paul Martin who provided his views on the taxi fares.

Mr Murray declined the opportunity to address the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

Councillor Johal adjourned the meeting to allow a short recess to consider the various representations which had been made. The meeting reconvened at 3.27 pm with all those listed in the sederunt present.

Members agreed to conclude the review and agreed the following changes to the existing fare chart:-

- a) Increase the flagfall on all Tariffs by 30p
- b) Change the wording on Tariff One from:-

For a distance not exceeding 5/11ths OF A MILE or for waiting time not exceeding 3 minutes 45 seconds (or a combination of both)

to:-

For a distance not exceeding 5/11ths OF A MILE

- c) Increase the running mile by 20p on all Tariffs
- d) Change the wording from:-

Any hire terminating out-with the West Dunbartonshire area will be at a rate agreed at the time of hire

to:-

Any hire terminating out-with the Clydebank zone of the West Dunbartonshire area will be at a rate agreed at the time of hire

- e) Change the wording under Extra Charges from:-

A charge of £3.00 shall be payable for a taxi called by telephone or via App and not cancelled before arrival

to:-

A charge of £3.30 shall be payable for a taxi called by telephone or via App and not cancelled before arrival

- f) Increase the soiling fee from £60.00 to £100.00.

The Committee also agreed:-

- (i) that Officers notify all taxi operators by email or post in advance of any future proposed fare chart being advertised in the local paper alerting them to the period in which representations could be submitted; and
- (ii) to authorise Officers to conclude the review by notifying each taxi operator of the new scales and of their right to appeal to the Traffic Commissioner and, if there is no appeal against the scales by a taxi operator, by giving public notice that the new scales are to come in to effect.

The meeting closed at 3.48 p.m.