

HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

2 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr MC Sheppard-Bools - Chairman

Cllr RG Allen, Cllr MB Cartwright, Cllr WJ Crooks, Cllr DT Glenville,
Cllr MT Mullaney, Cllr K Nichols, Cllr LJP O'Shea and Cllr R Webber-Jones

Officers in attendance: Rebecca Owen, Mark Brymer and Rebecca Valentine-Wilkinson

207 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interests were declared at this stage.

208 TRADE REQUEST FOR TAXI TARIFF INCREASE

Consideration was given to a request by the Hinckley Area Taxi Association for an increase in the table of fares for hackney carriages.

It was confirmed that the last tariff increase took place in 2011. The association had now made an application due to an increase in running costs, insurance premiums, cost of new vehicles, and the rising cost of fuel.

The association confirmed that drivers had been putting in longer hours to try and recoup some of their earnings. They had also been trying to recruit younger drivers into the association as a way of increasing their membership. The association also confirmed that some of the vehicles had new technology installed at a cost of around £500 per unit.

In response to a question, it was noted that there was a soiling charge that some customers didn't pay which had an effect on the earnings of the taxi drivers as it was dependent on what time the incident happened before it would be confirmed what time the vehicle would be back on the road.

It was also confirmed that regular customers often got a reduced rate fare which was not unusual.

A question was asked around what the council had been doing to support electric vehicles within the trade. It was confirmed that two electric vehicles were already licensed and that the council was working on a draft policy to encourage electric vehicle usage.

The association confirmed that once sufficient charging infrastructure was in place then this may encourage more drivers to change vehicles. Currently electric vehicles were very expensive and the drivers had to incur down time whilst waiting for the vehicle to charge.

A member suggested that this tariff be reviewed on a more regular basis.

It was moved by Councillor Cartwright, seconded by Councillor Bill and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the fare increase proposal one be supported and the soiling charge remain at £50 and this to be recommended to Executive for approval.