

LICENSING AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

4 April 2005

Present: Councillor Mrs Kemp (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair); Councillors Aikman, Baldock, R Brown, Chapman, Coffin, Davis, Drury, Mrs Holland, Mrs Luck, Mrs Oakley and Smith.

Councillors Dobson, Heslop, Still and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council and Committee Procedure Rule 15.21.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dorling (Chairman).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

MINUTES

LA 05/001 **RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Licensing and Appeals Committee held on 7 December and of the meeting of the Committee sitting as a Panel held on 9 December 2004 be approved as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3, PART 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

The Chief Solicitor reported that a request had been made by the Tonbridge and Malling Taxi Association to change the Council's table of maximum fares. This involved several changes to the existing tariff, which would have the effect generally of increasing the fares charged.

There was also a request for the use of "calendar controlled" meter, which would mean that a customer would automatically become liable for an increased tariff if a journey commencing in one time period went into another time period for which the tariff was higher. There was also a request for a change to a "time and distance" tariff from the present "distance only" tariff.

Messrs Hill, King and Cunningham-Hoult, taxi proprietors, addressed the Committee prior to its deliberations. Whilst Mr Hill was in favour of the changes, Mr King was not. Mr Cunningham-Hoult pointed out that some of the changes proposed could not be accommodated on the existing meters.

Members considered the report and the representations made and adopted some proposed changes to the table of fares.

LA 05/002 RESOLVED: That

- (1) a revised table of maximum fares be adopted as set out in the following table:

TABLE OF MAXIMUM HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES	
Fares for distance only	
For a journey of up to 1.6 km	£2.80
For each subsequent 161 metres or part thereof	£0.20
Waiting time at hirer's request (per period of 24 seconds or part thereof)	£0.10
Surcharge for journeys beginning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ between 0000hrs and 0600 hrs on any day ◆ at any time on any bank or public holiday except Christmas Day; ◆ between 1800hrs and 2400 hrs on Christmas Eve; and ◆ between 1800hrs and 2400 hrs on New Year's Eve. 	50%
Surcharge for journeys beginning at any time on Christmas Day	100%
Surcharge for journeys beginning between 0600 hours and midnight on a Saturday or Sunday (per fare)	50p
For the carriage of more than 4 passengers up to the maximum authorised capacity of the carriage	50%
Vehicle spoilage charge	£75.00

- (2) the use of "calendar controlled" meters be not permitted;
- (3) "time and distance" charges be not permitted at this time; and
- (4) the Chief Solicitor be authorised to advertise these proposals for public consultation, as required by law.

TAXI RANKS – TONBRIDGE STATION

The Director of Planning and Transportation referred to a request which had been made by some members of the trade for consideration to be given to a revised rank lay out in Waterloo Road, Tonbridge. He reported that this matter was being considered in the context of wider improvements to the highway infrastructure in the vicinity of the railway station and a complete review of parking in the central areas of Tonbridge. A further report would be submitted in due course.

LA 05/003 RESOLVED that the report be received and noted.

MATTERS TAKEN IN PRIVATE

The Chairman moved, it was seconded and

LA 05/004 RESOLVED: That, as public discussion would disclose exempt information, the following matter be considered in private.

**COMPLAINT AGAINST PRIVATE HIRE DRIVER –
CASE NO. 05/01**
(LGA 1972 - Sch 12A Para 4 – Recipient of Service)

The Chief Solicitor reported that Kent Police had reported that this driver had been arrested on suspicion of causing criminal damage to the vehicle of an officer of the Council and for being in possession of an offensive weapon. The driver had pleaded guilty to the offensive weapon charge and a trial was to be held in respect of the criminal damage charge. Members considered that it was not acceptable for a driver to be carrying an offensive weapon in his vehicle. The driver did not attend the hearing, nor did he submit any information as to the circumstances of these offences. In the absence of this information, the Committee considered that he had left them no alternative but to revoke his licence. The Chief Solicitor reported that he had suspended the driver's licence in January and that there had been no appeal against this suspension.

LA 05/005 RESOLVED: That the driver be considered not to be a fit and proper person to continue to hold a private hire driver licence and that the licence be revoked.

The meeting ended at 2005 hours