

Runnymede Borough CouncilREGULATORY COMMITTEE24 January 2008 at 7.40 p.m.

Members of the Committee present: Councillors D.W. Parr (Chairman), Mrs P.I. Broadhead (Vice-Chairman), R.J. Edis, Mrs E. Gill and C. Knight

Members of the Committee absent: None

Councillor R.N. Jones also attended.

490. NOTIFICATION OF CHANGES TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Group mentioned below had notified the Chief Executive of its wish that the change listed below be made to the membership of the Committee. The change was for a fixed period ending on the day after the meeting and thereafter the Councillor removed would be reappointed.

Group requesting Change	Remove from Membership	Appoint Instead
Runnymede Independents	Councillor B.J. Relph	Councillor Mrs E. Gill

The Chief Executive Officer had given effect to this wish in accordance with Section 16(2) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989.

491. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 22 November 2007 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

492. REVENUE ESTIMATES 2008/09

(Ref: Minutes of the Regulatory Committee, January 2007, page 714, para. 498)

The Committee considered the Revenue Estimates 2008/09 for the services under the remit of the Regulatory Committee.

Members were pleased that where possible the fees and charges had been increased more than the rate of inflation to assist with meeting the Council's savings target. In respect of taxi licensing and to move towards a break even position in 2008/09 increases of between 5% and 22% had been applied.

Officers confirmed that recharges (not all of which represented new costs) associated with the new civic offices and front of house arrangements had occasioned increases in Information Technology, Technical Support Services, Office Accommodation and Legal and Admin (where the budget for Customer Services had been placed). This was partially offset however by a reduction in the recharge for Committee Services as result of some duties under the Gambling Act transferring to the Licensing Section.

RESOLVED that –

- i) the draft Revenue Estimates for 2008/09 be approved as submitted and the Corporate Management Committee be requested to make provision accordingly; and**
- ii) the proposed increases in fees and charges for 2008/09, as set out in Appendix 'B' to the estimates, be approved to be effective either from the first week of April 2008 or 1 April 2008 as appropriate.**

493. HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE INCREASE 2008 – LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976

(Ref: Minutes of the Regulatory Committee, January 2007, page 714, para. 499)

The Committee considered proposals to amend, and in places, increase the level of fare tariffs charged in respect of Hackney Carriages and those Private Hire vehicles fitted with a taximeter.

Members recalled that in response to a request from members of 'the Trade' fares had been increased substantially in 2007 and were now largely in line with those charged by neighbouring local authorities.

A further consultation had been undertaken earlier in the month; responses indicated that a further adjustment to the fares proposed in the original consultation documentation would be acceptable to address drivers' concerns regarding the relatively minor increase in yield from frequent, short journeys, and the second phase of vehicle age reductions scheduled from 1 April 2008.

It appeared that drivers were in favour of keeping the first mile 'pull off' rate as proposed, but increasing the second mile and subsequent miles thereafter.

The Committee took into account the cost of fuel, fares charged by neighbouring boroughs, public transport and the Retail Price Index. On balance, Members were content to approve the revised table of fares.

RESOLVED that –

the revised Hackney Carriage Fare Rates as attached at Appendix 'A' be approved and adopted, to have effect from 2 April 2008.

494. HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE DRIVERS' FORUM

The Committee noted that a meeting of the Drivers' Forum had taken place on 17 January 2008, which had been well attended by approximately 30 drivers of Hackney Carriages and Private Hire Vehicles.

It was confirmed that one of the topics discussed was that of the vehicle age limits which had been approved by the Committee in April and June 2007.

Officers agreed to undertake a full assessment on how the Trade would benefit from a further relaxation in the age limits, the effects of the current conditions and to gauge the opinion of other drivers of Private Hire vehicles during February before submitting a detailed report to the next meeting of the Committee in April.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 8.25 p.m.)