

**LICENSING COMMITTEE**6 July 2009  
10:00am – 12:10pm

**Present:** Councillors Benstead, Blencowe, Boyce, Dixon (Chair), Hart, Liddle, McGovern, Rosenstiel, Shah (Alt), Stuart (Vice Chair), Upstone, Wright

**FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE COUNCIL****09/Lic/20 Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of the Licensing Committee on 18 May and 21 May 2009 were confirmed as a correct record.

The Committee noted that the minutes of the Licensing Sub Committee meetings held on 5 January, 19 January, 26 January, 2 February, 16 March and 18 May (Taxi Regulatory) 2009 had been approved by the members of the Subcommittees.

**09/Lic/21 Apologies**

Cllr Smith (Cllr Shah attended as alternative member)

**09/Lic/22 Declarations of Interest**

None

**09/Lic/23 Public Questions**

The Speaker, representing the CCLT (the Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Ltd) spoke on behalf of members supporting the application for an increase in Taxi fares for Hackney Carriages. He referred to the benefit to users from the proposed surcharge of £3 (per journey) for between 5 and 8 passengers which would compensate drivers for higher running costs and save users the cost of hiring two taxis. He said that the application for an increase on the initial drop charge should be 20 pence and not 40 pence.

**09/Lic/24 Taxi Fares – Annual Review**

The Committee considered the application from Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Limited (CCLT, formally CLTOA) for the annual increase in hackney carriage fares taking into account the representations of the applicant(s) and the policy considerations detailed in paragraphs 4 and 5 in the report.

The applicant sought an increase of 3.4% in the time and distance element of the metered fare in line with the percentage increase in the London Tariff.

CCLT had also submitted additional requests which were not in line with the London Tariff, these were an increase of 40 pence on the initial drop price (from £2.20 to £2.60) and a surcharge of £3 for hackney carriage multi seater journeys within the city boundaries. The CCLT had subsequently amended the request for an increase on the initial drop price to £2.40 instead of £2.60)

At the Licensing Committee meeting on the 14 July 2005 it had been agreed that all future hackney carriage fare reviews would be based on the percentage increase as agreed each year for London and that only distance and time elements would carry the increase.

Members discussed the application and the need for a review of the fare setting process.

The Chair proposed that members consider the first two recommendations as alternatives; on a show of hands members agreed by 6 votes to 3 to approve an increase on the initial drop price (the first bullet point) rather than the requested 3.4% increase in the distance and time tariff (the second bullet point).

**Resolved** unanimously

1. Not to agree the requested 3.4% increase in the distance and time tariff;
2. To agree an increase of 20p on the initial drop price;
3. Not to agree the £3 surcharge (by 11 votes to 0) for Hackney Carriage multi seater journeys;
4. the commencement date for the new fares be 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2009
5. To ask the officers to review the Hackney Carriage fare setting process for consideration at a meeting of the Committee in January 2010

### **09/Lic/25 Licensing of Tuk Tuks**

An application had been received to licence a Tuk Tuk as a private hire vehicle to provide pre booked tours around Cambridge.

Members were asked to consider whether in principle they approved the licensing of Tuk Tuks as private hire vehicles in Cambridge, subject to officers drawing up a set of conditions for approval by Members.

Legislative and Policy considerations were set out in the report.

The Head of Environmental Services said there were a number of concerns which had to be considered, and he proposed that, if members were prepared to agree in principle to licence Tuk Tuks, officers would research the possible conditions which might be attached to a licence for this type of vehicle. It would be up to officers to ensure that a particular Tuk Tuk met with the approved conditions

**Resolved** in principle to permit the licensing of Tuk Tuks as private hire vehicles within Cambridge City, subject to specifications and conditions to be drawn up by officers and reported to a meeting of the Licensing Committee in October 2009.

### **09/Lic/26 Delegation of Authority to Determine Street Trading Pitches to Licensing Subcommittees**

The Constitution currently required applications for both new and existing street trading pitches to be determined at a meeting of the full Licensing Committee. As meetings of the Licensing Committee were not scheduled in the Council's meetings calendar it was difficult to combine sufficient business to justify a meeting.

Members considered delegating the task of determining applications to the Licensing Sub-Committees. This would enable a faster turn around in decisions and allow the officers to provide a more responsive service.

No additional training or expertise was required for this role. The relevant ward members were consulted before the applications were heard and their comments included in the officers' reports.

**Resolved** that the Licensing Committee delegate authority to Licensing Subcommittees to determine the allocation of new and existing Street Trading pitches.