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CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 17 January 2023 at 9.30 am at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Suzy Horton
Chris Attwell
Kimberly Barrett
Lee Hunt
Steve Pitt
Matthew Winnington

1. **Apologies for Absence (AI 1)**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of Interests (AI 2)**

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Proposed Variation to Hackney Carriage Table of Fares (AI 3)**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

The Chair noted that all licensing matters were dealt with by the Licensing Service, but fare amendments were required to be decided by Cabinet. The Special Cabinet meeting had been convened, otherwise the matter would be required to go to consultation.

Ross lee, Principal Licensing Officer, presented the report and introduced the January 2023 National Hackney Carriage League Table. The league table listed all Tariff 1, 2-mile fare prices and showed Portsmouth at 109th in the league table. The Licensing Officer noted that, should the proposal be approved, the fare would be £7.40 and would sit in line with authorities such as Birmingham, Canterbury, East Hants, and Eastleigh.

The Licensing Officer noted the proposals would not increase the flag fall or the first mile fare but the 2-mile, 5-mile and 10-mile fares would increase.

Since publication of the report, 3 objectors had formally removed themselves from the objection petition bringing the total objectors down to 16 people. 58 drivers were in support of the fare rise supplemented by a further 20 plus drivers who had contacted the Licensing Service via the trade reps to express their support.

No members of the public had objected to the proposals.

Deputations

Shahed Uddin, Nizam Ahmed, Councillor Scott Payter-Harris and Councillor George Madgwick gave deputations in favour of the proposals.

Deputations are not minuted but can be viewed here:

[Special, Cabinet, 17th January 2023 on Livestream](#)

Member Questions

There were no questions

Member Comments

Members noted the increase will bring Portsmouth in line with some neighbouring authorities with Portsmouth remaining cheaper than Southampton, Test Valley, Winchester and Basingstoke and Deane.

Members considered the rise sensible and welcomed the help for the local taxi trade with the current cost of living.

Members unanimously agreed to accept and support the recommendations.

The Licensing Officer gave thanks to Viv Young from the Taxi Trade, for the work he carries out formulating taxi tariffs.

Decision

The Cabinet:

- 1. Received and considered the objections at Appendix 1 of the report.**
- 2. Noted that the hackney carriage trade representatives are in support of the proposed variations to the current table of hackney carriage fares at Appendix 3 and that consequently the fares could be approved without modification and to come into force with immediate effect.**
- 3. Delegated approval for the consideration (and determination) of any future objections to proposed variations to the hackney carriage table of fares to the Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services in consultation with the Chair/Vice-Chair of the Licensing Committee.**

The meeting concluded at 9.42 am.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council

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