

Night Charge/Unsocial Hours

In 2003, a working group gave consideration to crime and disorder problems in the town late at night. Concern was expressed at the lack of taxi availability when nightclubs in the town close. Whilst it was identified that this is linked to the violence that drivers may experience late at night, to encourage more drivers to work at this time, it was proposed that between 9pm and midnight the night charge would be £1 and from midnight to 4am, the charge would be increased to £2.80 to take into account the above problem. From 4am to 6am, the charge would revert to £1.

In addition to this variation, the trade was approached in 2007 by the Night Time Economy Forum (a forum consisting of Police, Council and other interested parties of the night time economy) to find ways of combating the extra numbers of people on the streets in the town centre between 4am and 6am. This has been created by the extension of licensing hours for various licensed premises in Southend. In view of this, in 2007 it was agreed by Committee that the additional night charge between midnight and 4am be extended on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays until 6am. This extension of the night charge is to encourage drivers to extend their night shift or start their shift early to help with this problem.