

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

Report of Director of Technical & Environmental Services  
to  
**Licensing Committee**  
on  
**13 August 2003**

Report prepared by: Colin Gabell

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**Review of Hackney Carriage Fares - Consideration of Objections to Fare Revision**  
**Environmental Scrutiny Committee – Executive Councillor: Councillor Mrs Holland**  
*A Part I Public Agenda Item*

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**1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Members are invited to consider objections to the revised Hackney Carriage fare and charges structure previously agreed at Licensing Committee on 30 June 2003.

**2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 **That, after due consideration of objections, the revised Hackney Carriage fare and charges structure agreed at Licensing Committee on 30 June 2003 be confirmed and implemented prior to 30 September 2003.**

- 2.2 If Members are minded (after due consideration of the objections) to amend the previously revised structure etc, it is requested that the amended structure be implemented in any case before 30 September 2003.

**3. Background**

- 3.1 Members will recall their deliberations on 30 June 2003 when, at the request of Southend Taxi Drivers' Association, they agreed a revised structure of fares and charges, agreeing a 3.45% increase in fares; a revised fare chart which included an additional £2.80 to be charged between midnight and 4am; amendments to Christmas and New Year charges to double the relevant day or night rate and an agreement to duly advertise the revised charges, etc. A copy of the Report and Appendices are attached at **Appendix 1**. The relevant advertisement at **Appendix 2** requesting objections to the proposed increases to be submitted within 14 days of 25 July 2003.
- 3.2 In response to the advertisement, at the time of writing five objections have been received which now require Members' consideration. If further objections are received within the appropriate time limit, a verbal report by officers will be given to Members at the meeting on 13 August 2003.

**3.3 Summary of the Objections**

All of the objections so far are from members of the licensed Hackney Carriage/Private Hire trade. To date no objections have been received from the public. The objections can be summarised as follows:

Two drivers object to (apparently) all the increases, and feel fares are too high. Three other drivers highlight their objections to the proposed increase in the additional night

charge between midnight and 4am. Of these three, one (which was received before the advertisement appeared) suggests the extra charge should be reduced and only apply on early Saturday and Sunday mornings.

3.4 The five letters of objection are attached at **Appendix 3**.

#### **4. Proposals**

4.1 In light of the fact that no members of the public have objected to the revisions and all of the revisions agreed on 30 June 2003 were requested by the Association, it is recommended that the previous decisions of the Committee should be implemented.

4.2 It is requested by officers that the date for implementation of revision of any fares/charges should be no later than 30 September 2003 in order that adjustment and testing of meters can take place when staff availability is assured.

#### **5. Background Papers**

5.1 Letters of objection.

#### **6. Appendices**

6.1 **Appendix 1:** Report to the Licensing Committee on 30 June 2003.

6.2 **Appendix 2:** Fares advertisement 25 July 2003.

6.3 **Appendix 3:** Letters of objection to the revised fare/charges.