

## **Regulation and Review Committee**

**15 October 2015**

Present: Councillor K Osborne (Chair)  
Councillors G Madden, D McMeekan, T Mulvenna and  
J O'Shea.

Councillor J Munby (Via Skype)

### **RQ61/10/15 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors A Austin, K Barrie, G Bell, L Bell, N Huscroft, A Percy and M Reynolds.

### **RQ62/10/15 Substitute Members**

There were no substitutes reported.

### **RQ63/10/15 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest or dispensations reported.

### **RQ64/10/15 Minutes**

Resolved that (1) the minutes of the meetings of the committee held on 23 April, 6 August and 15 September 2015 be confirmed; and  
(2) the minutes of the meetings of the panel held on 19 May, 11 June, 22 June, 16 July, 13 August and 17 September 2015 be noted.

### **RQ65/10/15 Annual Review of Council Policy on Covert Surveillance**

Consideration was given to a report which provided an update on the Authority's review of its Policy on Covert Surveillance. The current Policy had been approved by Cabinet in November 2014 and was subject to review on an annual basis. As part of the review a number of minor typographical amendments had been made but as the existing policy remained fit for purpose there had not been any significant changes made.

The report also advised members that there had not been any authorisations granted by the Authority for the use of covert surveillance in the past year.

**Resolved** that (1) the Authority's draft Policy on Covert Surveillance be noted; and  
(2) the Cabinet be recommended to adopt the Policy at its meeting on 9 November 2015

**RQ66/10/15 Hackney Carriage Fare Review 2015**

Consideration was given to a report which set out a request from the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association (NTHCA) for a variation to the table of fares for hackney carriages. The Association had requested that the tariffs be amended as follows:

- Tariff 1 – reduce the yardage from 187.8 yards (or part thereof) to 178.9 yards (or part thereof) per 20p
- Tariff 2 – reduce the yardage from 160.5 yards (or part thereof) to 152.9 years (or part thereof) per 20p

The Committee was reminded that the former Licensing Committee at its meeting held on 11 October 2001 had approved a formula for calculating the maximum fare level. This had been revised in 2006 and was used, in consultation with the NTHCA to determine a cost per mile figure for the operation of a hackney carriage. The formula took into account the vehicle's running costs including insurance and a driver's earnings based on the average earnings for the region. The formula had been applied and had produced a maximum cost per mile figure for 2015 of £2.43.

The NTHCA's request had been calculated using the agreed formula and equated to an average cost per mile of £2.90.

Mr Snedden, representing the NTHCA, was permitted to address the meeting in support of the application. He explained that based on the "running mile" drivers using tariff one would get no increase for the first mile, 20p extra for the second mile and 40p for the third mile. Under tariff 2 the driver would get an extra 20p for the first mile, 40p for the second mile and 40p for the third mile.

Members considered that the increase proposed by the North Tyneside Hackney Carriage Association, at 5%, was excessive bearing in mind the 5% increase approved last year.

**Resolved** that the table of fares be not varied