

## **Appendix F – Minutes of the report ‘Review of Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff’ at the Licensing & Environmental Health Committee 21 January 2025**

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer presented the report on the Review of Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff.

He said the Council had received a written request from members of the license trade to increase fare tariff rates. They did not have an active trade association at the time of the meeting.

He noted that Uttlesford’s taxi fares were the highest in Essex.

He said that should the recommendation be approved, the rates would be sent for consultation. If objections were received, the matter would be brought back before the Committee. He specified that if no objections were received through the consultation, the new fare charts would come into effect without further approval from members. The Monitoring Officer said it was within the Committee’s gift to decide to keep the charges the same.

Members expressed concerns that the increase was too much. They said that they were not keen for Uttlesford to be amongst the most expensive in taxi fares.

Members suggested keeping the charges as they were.

The Senior Licensing and Compliance Officer noted that the potential justifications for the increase were outlined in Background Paper A, amended to the report.

Councillor Driscoll noted the proposed increases were generally in line with inflation in the last year.

Councillor Moran noted the importance of focussing on residents but added that it was also important to focus on businesses. He suggested reviews for fare prices be held every 2 years as opposed to 4. He suggested that the proposed increase was too much and should be reconsidered.

Councillor Reeve suggested having some of the most expensive taxi fares would be at odds with Uttlesford rural character, and doubted whether the increase would be in the interest of the drivers as it may drive down business.

The Chair moved to approve the recommendations laid out in the report, but the motion did not carry.

Councillor Driscoll proposed an amendment to the recommendation that the Committee recommend the approval of the taxi fare rate increases to full Council on the condition of consultation.

RESOLVED to amend the proposal to:

Recommend that full Council approve the proposed rate increase on the condition of the outcome of the public consultation of the proposed fare chart structure.

Councillor Driscoll proposed the amended recommendation.

RESOLVED to Recommend that full Council approve the proposed rate increase on the condition of the outcome of the public consultation of the proposed fare chart structure.