

UTTLESFORD LICENSED OPERATORS & DRIVERS ASSOCIATION



11 July, 2012

Dear Member,

Our congratulations on behalf of the taxi trade to Councillor Perry on his appointment as Chairman, and to Councillor Walters on his new Cabinet role as Portfolio Holder for Licensing.

Licensing Reserve/Annual Budget

As you are aware, it is our established practice to review the year end surplus of income over expenditure in the Licensing Accounts since the Licensing Task Group under Councillor Perry's expert leadership first resolved to work together. Our understanding is that the year end figures for 2011/12 will be available shortly and will show the Licensing Reserve to be £102k as at March 2012. We await the meeting with Michael Perry, Steve Joyce and Sara Chapman with interest this month or next.

Annual Review of Table of Fares

We have consulted with all Hackney Carriage Proprietors and drivers to seek their views on whether an increase in their tariff is appropriate this year, and the consensus is that they would like an increase of 5% on the rates currently applicable. ULODA's Working Party is currently finalising the fine details of our proposals so that they can be submitted to the Cabinet in early August for approval.

Law Commission Current Project on Taxi and Private Hire Services

The current laws on taxis and PHVs have been criticised for being complex and outdated. One problem is the multiplicity of legislation, with regulation through different statutes. There are also differing legal systems along geographical lines. The project examines the legal framework with a view to making it simpler and more modern. The consultation process started in May this year with provisional proposals and the Law Commission plans to publish a final report with recommendations and draft bill by late 2013. Legislative reform looks likely to be imminent!

Finally, we are seeking an urgent review of the Committee's decision in March 2010 to implement Michael Perry's recommendation to change the basis of the Council's Enhanced CRB and Medical checks for drivers. The cost of the change to bring forward these checks is significant to Operators, and members are expressing deep concerns about it, particularly as it flies in the face of the DfT's best practice guidelines which recommend three years between checks. Given Members' comments last time we met, we will welcome the opportunity for a sponsor to take the matter forward.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Drinkwater
Chair

Please reply to Pennard House, Wrights Green, Bishop's Stortford, CM22 7RJ

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in the Uttlesford District Council Community**