

**BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the**

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**Held on Wednesday, 15 October 2008 at 10.00 am in  
Norfolk Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

**PRESENT**

Mr P.J. Duigan (Vice-Chairman)    Mr I. Sherwood  
Mr G.P. Balaam                            Mr A.C. Stasiak  
Mrs K. Millbank                          Mrs L.S. Turner  
Mr D.S. Myers

**Also Present**

Mrs D.K.R. Irving

**In Attendance**

Trevor Holden                            - Chief Executive  
Ian Vargeson                            - Member Services Manager  
Mike Wheatley                          - Head of Environmental Health  
Elaine Wilkes                            - Senior Member Services Officer

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**64/08 MINUTES - 3 SEPTEMBER 2008**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**65/08 MINUTES - 6 OCTOBER 2008**

The minutes of the special meeting held on 6 October 2008 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**66/08 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs. J. Ball, Mr. S.H. Chapman-Allen, Mrs. S.R. Howard-Alpe and Mr. D.R. Williams.

**67/08 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

Mrs. D.R. Irving was in attendance for agenda item 6.

**68/08 HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE REVIEW (AGENDA ITEM 6)**

The Head of Environmental Health presented the report and explained that this matter had been brought back to the Committee as it had not proved possible to recalibrate the fare meters as proposed under the Committee's decision made at the meeting on 3 September 2008 (Minute 56/08).

As previously reported, Breckland's hackney carriage fares were currently higher than most others in the region, particularly the running mile fare (with the exception of Waveney), as detailed in Appendix B to the report.

The Committee had also not determined the question of the temporary fuel

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supplementary charge of 20p for each hiring under the 'extra' charges on the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares, which had been agreed at the Committee's meeting on 16 July 2008 to cover the period until the annual review of fares (Minute 46/08).

In reviewing the position, Members had regard to the fact that fuel prices were now decreasing.

There remained concern that Breckland's prices were significantly above the average in the region and that any increases would place an additional burden on customers in the rural areas.

Members did not believe that Breckland's concessionary car scheme imposed any unfair advantage over hackney carriage operators and it was confirmed that the community car scheme was closely monitored to ensure it was operated fully within the scope of the scheme.

Although it had previously been explained that the existing fares were a maximum, a Member stated that she had found on two occasions that operators were not prepared to negotiate a lower fare for a journey.

In the circumstances, Members concluded that, given the fact that Breckland's existing fares were above the average for the region and that fuel prices were now beginning to fall, an increase in fares could not be supported at the present time. Furthermore, Members felt that the reason for the temporary supplementary fuel allowance of 20p no longer existed.

It was therefore

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the decision in minute 56/08 of the meeting held on 3 September 2008 be rescinded;
- (2) in the light of falling fuel prices, the temporary supplementary fuel allowance previously agreed under minute 46/08 of the meeting held on 16 July 2008 be terminated; and
- (3) no increases be made to the hackney carriage table of fares and the existing fares remain in force until the next review.

Stephanie  
Butcher,  
Mike  
Wheatley

**69/08 NEXT MEETING**

The arrangements for the next meeting on 26 November 2008 were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.25 am

CHAIRMAN