

**Wiltshire Council**

**Environment Select Committee**

**4 September 2018**

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**Agenda Supplement: Task Group Updates – Late-night Taxi Fares**

**Late-night Taxi Fares Task Group**

**Membership:**

Cllr Derek Brown OBE  
Cllr Brian Dalton  
Cllr Matthew Dean  
Cllr Peter Evans  
Cllr Ian McLennan  
Cllr Graham Payne

**Terms of Reference:**

In the context of the Salisbury recovery effort and reports of high late-night fares being charged in the Salisbury area,

1. To investigate whether the current schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney carriages, as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014,
  - a) Is supportive of Wiltshire's night time economy (NTE)
  - b) Is comparable to, and competitive with, night time centres in adjoining counties
  - c) Provides a fair system across all parts of the county.
2. To make any evidenced recommendations for improvement as appropriate.

**Recent activity:**

The task group held its first meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July and discussed how it would address its terms of reference. It received evidence from members of the council's licensing team, including comparisons between the maximum tariffs set by Wiltshire Council and those set by neighbouring local authorities. Initial comparisons with other local authorities' tariffs suggest that Wiltshire's are comparable until 1.00am, but then rise steeply and can be as much as double those in some neighbouring areas.

**Key discussion points:**

- The current system was introduced by the Licensing Committee in 2014 in order to harmonise the different tariffs of the four district councils. It includes a single set of maximum tariffs that applies across the whole county.

- Members noted that the 2014 system followed consultation with the taxi trade, but not anyone else, e.g. representatives of the night-time economy (NTE). Members agreed to seek evidence from:
  - Taxi trade representatives
  - Salisbury Business Improvement District (BID)
  - Salisbury Chamber of Commerce
  - Pubwatch
  - Purple Flag (which includes representation from a number of other organisations)
  - Wiltshire Police
  - Licensing teams from neighbouring areas
  
- Members considered whether to engage with equivalent groups from other parts of the county e.g. Chippenham. However, it was believed that only Salisbury now has nightclubs (with Chippenham only now having bars) that open late into the night and the question of late-night tariffs was therefore significantly more relevant in that area.
  
- The task group agreed to meet again in Salisbury in September.

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