

### **Statement from Councillor Webber**

This review of Taxi Tariffs was undertaken as a result of representations from the trade who have had to face heavy increases in the price of petrol and diesel fuel as a result of recent volatility in oil prices. We have had to balance the needs of taxi drivers in the Vale to make a reasonable living in an area with a high cost of living against the ability of Vale residents to bear increases in what are already some of the higher maximum tariffs in the South of England. After careful consideration of the issues and representations from all sides, minor alterations have been made to the original proposals for Soiling Charge and Tariff Two rates. I am now content that the increases proposed are both fair and reasonable.

Council policy has been revised so that we will conduct reviews on an annual basis from now on to consider the effects of further volatility in fuel prices on taxi drivers, the public and the environment.

I would like to express my thanks to the Officers at the VWHDC who have worked extremely hard to produce what I believe to be a fair and sensible solution.

Richard Webber  
Vale Portfolio holder for Environmental Health