

LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**27 JANUARY 2016**

REPORT TITLE	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
REPORT OF	ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider representations received in respect of a proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage fare tariff advertised in accordance with the decision of this Committee on 25 November 2015.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members consider the representations made to the proposed Hackney Carriage fare tariff increase and determine whether to bring in to force a new table of fares, with or without modifications, as a result of the representations.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 It is a delegated function of this Committee to set Hackney Carriage Tariffs.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 There is no provision for other options to be considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 65(1) gives the power to set hackney carriage fares to the local authority as follows:

- 1 A District Council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of a hackney carriage by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a 'table of fares') made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 2 When a District Council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

3.2 On 24 September 2007 Members of this Committee resolved to consider an annual review of fares based upon the Public Carriage Office (now Transport for London) recommendations for London.

3.3 Since that date the last increase of hackney carriage fares was in December 2012 as any change using this method in recent years would have resulted in a negligible impact on Hackney Carriage fares.

3.4 On 25 November 2015 Members considered two proposals to increase the Hackney Carriage fare tariff. Members resolved that the proposal submitted by the Unite Hackney Carriage trade representatives be approved, subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.

3.5 The proposed increase was advertised on the Council website and in the Wirral Globe for a period of fourteen days. This proposal is referred to as **Proposal A** in the appendices to this report.

- 3.6 During the consultation period nine representations were received in respect of the proposed increase. These are attached at Appendix 1. The Licensing Section were advised that the 19 Hackney Carriage Drivers who submitted a petition against a tariff increase maintain their objection to any fare increase. This petition is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.7 The representations made have included two amendments to the proposed fare increase and these are detailed below.
- 3.8 A revised proposal has been submitted by the Unite Hackney Carriage trade representatives to reduce the initial hiring distance on each tariff shown below, with all other distances and charges to remain unchanged. This proposal is referred to as **Proposal B** in the appendices to this report.

Tariff 1 - Reduce the initial hiring distance from 600 yards to 355 yards

Tariff 2 - Reduce the initial hiring distance from 900 yards to 695 yards

Tariff 3 - Reduce the initial hiring distance from 966 yards to 784 yards

Tariff 4 - Reduce the initial hiring distance from 966 yards to 829 yards

The effect of reducing each of the initial hiring distances is to increase the cost of each journey by the sum of 20p.

- 3.9 A further revised proposal has been submitted by a Hackney Carriage Driver. This proposal is shown below and includes removing the extra charge for more than two passengers. This proposal is referred to as **Proposal C** in the appendices to this report.

Tariff 1

First 475 yards - £2.40
Each subsequent 225 yards – 20p

Tariff 2

First 400 yards - £2.90
Each subsequent 200 yards – 20p

Tariffs 3 and 4 to remain unchanged.

- 3.10 The current four tariffs are as follows:

Tariff 1 Standard Day Rate (6am to 10pm)

Tariff 2 Standard Night Rate (10pm to 6am)
Public and Bank Holiday Day Rate (inc Easter Sunday)

Tariff 3 Public and Bank Holiday Night Rate (inc Easter Sunday)

Tariff 4 Christmas and New Year Day and Night Rate

Christmas is defined as the period from 18.00 hours on Christmas Eve until 06.00 hours on the day after Boxing Day.

New Year is defined as the period from 18.00 hours on New Year's Eve until 06.00 hours on the day after New Year's Day.

- 3.11 A table comparing the current and proposed rates is shown at Appendix 3. A table showing the effect of the proposed increases is attached at Appendix 4. Appendix 5 shows the current and proposed extra charges.
- 3.12 The date set by Members at their meeting on 25 November 2015 for the new table of fares to come into force if no objections were received was 17 December 2015.
- 3.13 If an objection to a proposed Hackney Carriage fare tariff is made and is not withdrawn the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that the Council can set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the new table of fares shall come into force, with or without modifications as determined by Members after consideration of the objections.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A decision of this Committee may be subject to legal action.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The proposal has been advertised.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 The proposal has been reviewed with regard to equality and the impact review can be viewed at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-april-2014/eias-regeneration-envir>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Representations received in respect of the proposed increase

Appendix 2 Petition received objecting to the proposed increase

Appendix 3 Table comparing the current and proposed rates

Appendix 4 Table showing the effect of the proposals

Appendix 5 Table comparing the current and proposed extra charges

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	11 October 2012
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	25 November 2015