



LICENSING HEALTH AND SAFETY AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

22 JANUARY 2020

REPORT TITLE	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE AND ASSURANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee 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 13 November 2019.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Committee consider the representations made following a recent consultation exercise and determine whether to recommend to the Cabinet the approval of the proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage fare tariff.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 A proposal to increase the Hackney Carriage Tariffs has been submitted by Unite the Union which has been subject to statutory consultation.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Hackney Carriage Tariffs remain unchanged.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 13 November 2019 the Committee considered a proposal submitted by a Unite the Union representative to increase the Hackney Carriage Tariffs. A petition containing 51 signatures objecting to the increase was also submitted to the Committee.
- 3.2 A table comparing the current and proposed rates is shown at Appendix 1. A table showing the effect of the proposed increases is attached at Appendix 2.
- 3.3 The Committee resolved that the proposal be approved, subject to any objections being received as part of the consultation process.
- 3.4 The proposed increase was advertised for a period of fourteen days in a local Wirral newspaper, in accordance with the statutory requirement. Six objections to the proposed increase have been received by the Licensing Authority. The organiser of the petition submitted to the Committee on 13 November 2019 has requested that the petition should also be considered alongside the separate objections.
- 3.5 The representations are attached at Appendix 3 and 4.
- 3.6 The Committee are asked to consider whether to recommend to the Cabinet the approval of the proposed increase to the Hackney Carriage Tariffs in light of the representations received as part of the consultation process.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The cost of £98.49 for the public advertisement will be recovered from licence fees.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 65(1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 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.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There may be an impact on resources in the Licensing Team as following any change in the Hackney Carriage Tariffs it is necessary to verify that the meters in the Hackney Carriages have been calibrated to take into account the changes and new fare tariff cards are issued to all Hackney Carriage Drivers.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The decision whether to increase the Hackney Carriage Fares may have an impact on what members of the public reasonably expect to pay and whether drivers have sufficient incentive to provide a service when it is needed.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The guiding principles for a fair consultation can be summarised as follows;
 - It should be at a time when proposals are at a formative stage;
 - Must include sufficient reasons for particular proposals to allow those consulted to give intelligent consideration and an intelligent response;
 - Those consulted should be made aware of the factors that are of decisive relevance to the decision;
 - Adequate time should be given for consideration and response;
 - The product of the consultation should be conscientiously taken into account by the decision makers in finalising their statutory proposals/ when the ultimate decision is taken.
- 8.2 The proposal has been advertised for fourteen days in a local Wirral newspaper, in accordance with the statutory requirement.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes and impact review is attached - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017/busine-0>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Hackney Carriage Vehicles contribute to harmful emissions.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Table comparing current and proposed Hackney Carriage Tariffs

Appendix 2 – Table showing the effect of the proposed increase

Appendix 3 – Individual objections to proposed increase

Appendix 4 – Petition of 51 signatures objecting to proposed increase

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Licensing Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee	27 January 2016
	23 November 2016
	25 January 2017
	18 July 2018
	18 September 2019
	13 November 2019