

# LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 – PROPOSED VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

31 March 2011

### Report of Licensing Manager

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to enable Members to consider a proposed variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Committee is requested to consider whether to approve the proposed variation of hackney carriage fares as set out in the report.
2. If the Committee is minded to approve the proposed variation, it is requested to authorise the Head of Legal and Human Resources, in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, to give public notice of the Council's intention to vary its Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2008, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 In February 2011, 4 requests were received from hackney carriage proprietors, and 1 from the Lancaster City Hackney Proprietors Association for a variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares. The variations requested are attached at Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.3 As members will see the variation requests differ, for example the range of proposals for the first 880 yards is between £2.40 and £2.80. Whilst it would be open to the Committee to approve any of these requests, officers have taken all of the requests into account and produced a suggested variation as set out below.
- 1.4 **Tariff one – normal daytime charge**  
£2.60 for the first 880 yards or uncompleted part thereof  
20p for each subsequent 220 yards or uncompleted part thereof  
15p waiting time for each period of 60 seconds or uncompleted part thereof

**Tariff two – between midnight and 7.00am**

£3.90 for the first 880 yards or uncompleted part thereof

30p for each subsequent 220 yards or uncompleted part thereof.

20p waiting time for each period of 60 seconds or uncompleted part thereof

**Tariff 3 –Christmas period**

5.20 for the first 880 yards or uncompleted part thereof

40p for each subsequent 220 yards or uncompleted part thereof

30p waiting time for each period of 60 seconds or uncompleted part thereof

To include the wording on the tariff card:-

‘The driver may, at his/her discretion require the payment of an agreed amount in advance of the journey. A receipt will be given. The amount will be set against the metered fare.’

1.5 Members will note that the recommended Tariff for the Christmas period correctly reflects double time.

1.6 It was proposed at TLG in January that members of the trade should be requested to submit recommendations on the variation of the Tariffs by the end of February, and that all of the proposals should be considered by this Committee in March, with a view to implementing the changes at the earliest possible date, due to the rise in fuel costs.

1.7 The table below shows the effects of the proposed variations for varying distances.

| Normal time | Meter Start | 1 Mile | 2 Mile | 3 Mile | 4 Mile | 5 Mile |
|-------------|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Present     | £2.30       | £3.03  | £4.49  | £5.95  | £7.41  | £8.87  |
| Proposed    | £2.60       | £3.40  | £5.00  | £6.60  | £8.20  | £9.80  |

1.8 For comparison with other local authorities, a table has been attached at appendix 2 to this report.

1.9 With regard to the current rate of inflation, Financial Services have confirmed that the latest available Retail Price Index (RPI) is 5.1%.

**2.0 Conclusion**

2.1 If Members are minded to vary the current fares, the statutory procedure under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is for a public notice to be published in a local newspaper, a copy being deposited in the Town Halls in Lancaster and Morecambe. From the date of publication, a period of 14 days must then be allowed for any objections to be made. If any objections are received, these must be considered by the Committee. If no objections are received the new table of fares will have effect from the expiry of the 14 day period.

None applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications to the Council as a result of this report.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The legal requirement to advertise any proposed change is covered in the report.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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