

**LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE**

**Amendment to the Procedure for Varying the  
Hackney Carriage Table of Fares  
13 February 2014**

**Report of Licensing Manager**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To enable Members to consider whether to introduce a new procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

**This report is public.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Members are requested to approve the proposed amendment to the procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.**

**1.0 Report**

- 1.1 This report has been brought as a result of a request from some members of the trade to reconsider the current procedure for amending the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.
- 1.2 Currently fare proposals are received from hackney carriage proprietors at the beginning of the year. The proposals are collated and discussed at the Taxi and Private Hire Forum in April. The proposals are then considered by the Licensing Regulatory Committee, following which the statutory procedure is followed.
- 1.3 Members will recall that in 2012 this method caused problems in as much as there were conflicting views within the trade as to what had or should have been proposed. In any case it is very rare that all members of the trade will agree on any particular proposal
- 1.4 With the above in mind Members are asked to consider whether a more efficient method would be for the Council to recommend an annual increase in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI)
- 1.5 Officers propose that it would seem reasonable for a recommendation to come from the Licensing Regulatory Committee in March of each year,

following which hackney carriage proprietors could be consulted on whether an increase is required that year or not. It is envisaged that the question will require a yes or no answer.

- 1.6 The results could be reported back to the Committee in May. If the Committee are then minded to approve the increase, a notice could be placed in the newspaper outlining the proposed variation as required by the legislation. Members may recall that this Council would then allow a 21 day period in which objections could be made. If no objections were received or objections were received but then withdrawn the variation would be applied.

## 2.0 Conclusion

Members are asked to approve the change in procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage table of Fares.

<b>CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT</b> <b>(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)</b>	
The proposed changes do not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against different groups in the community based on age, disability, gender, race/ethnicity, religion or religious belief (faith), sexual orientation, or rural isolation.	
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
There are no financial implications, other than advertising the notice of the changes and these costs would be met from existing advertising budgets. Finance would advise the Licensing department in relation to the prevailing RPI rate.	
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	
There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.	
<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> None.	<b>Contact Officer:</b> Wendy Peck <b>Telephone:</b> 01524 582317 <b>E-mail:</b> wpeck@lancaster.gov.uk <b>Ref:</b> WP

## **MINUTES OF LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE – 13 FEBRUARY 2014**

87

### **AMENDMENT TO THE PROCEDURE FOR VARYING HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

Committee received the report of the Licensing Manager to enable Members to consider whether to introduce a new procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

It was reported that currently fare proposals were received from hackney carriage proprietors at the beginning of the year. The proposals were collated and discussed at the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Proprietors' Forum in April. The proposals were then considered by the Committee, following which, the statutory procedure was followed.

In 2012, there had been conflicting views within the trade as to what had or should have been proposed. With this in mind, Members were asked to consider whether a more efficient method would be for the Council to recommend an annual increase in line with the Retail Price Index (RPI).

It was proposed that a recommendation come from the Committee in March of each year. The hackney carriage proprietors would then be consulted on whether an increase was required that year or not. It was envisaged that the question would require a 'yes' or 'no' answer.

The results could be reported back to the Committee in May. If the Committee was then minded to approve the increase, a notice could be placed in the newspaper outlining the proposed variation, as required by the legislation, followed by a 21 day period in which objections could be made. If no objections were received, or objections were received but then withdrawn, the variation would be applied.

It was proposed by Councillor Johnson and seconded by Councillor Hill:

"That the proposed amendment to the procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares be approved."

Upon being put to the vote, Members voted unanimously in favour of the proposition, whereupon the Chairman declared the proposal to be clearly carried.

#### ***Resolved:***

- (1) That the procedure in relation to the variation of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares be as follows:
  - (a) That fare proposals be recommended by the Licensing Regulatory Committee in March of each year.
  - (b) That hackney carriage proprietors be consulted on whether a fare increase is required that year or not.
  - (c) That the results of the consultation be reported to the Licensing Regulatory Committee in May of each year.
  - (d) That, following approval by the Licensing Regulatory Committee, a notice be placed in the newspaper outlining the proposed variation, as required by the legislation, followed by a 21 day period in which objections can be made.

- (e) If no objections are received, or objections received are withdrawn, the variation be applied.