

# LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

## Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares 5<sup>th</sup> June 2014

### Report of Licensing Manager

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to enable Members to consider the results of the consultation with hackney carriage proprietors in relation to the proposed variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares in line with the current Retail Price Index (RPI) rate and to determine whether to approve the new table of fares as set out in the attached appendix 1 to this report.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Committee is requested to consider the results of the consultation which has just taken place with hackney carriage proprietors in relation to a fare increase as set out in the attached appendix 2, and to determine whether to approve the new table of fares, and authorise the Chief Officer (Governance) to advertise the new table of fares as required by the legislation.

#### 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares initially came into effect from 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 with a slight amendment to allow booking fees coming into force on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2014. A copy of the current fare card is attached as appendix 1 to this report. A copy of the proposed table of fares is attached at appendix 2 to this report.
- 1.2 Members will recall that, at the meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee in February, they approved an amendment to procedure in relation to the variation of hackney carriage fares,
- 1.3 Members agreed that they would recommend in March each year a proposal taking account of the current annual RPI rate and that hackney carriage proprietors would then be asked to vote on whether an increase is required during that year.
- 1.4 With regard to the current rate of inflation, Financial Services have confirmed that the latest available (January) RPI rate is 2.8%.
- 1.5 The table below shows the effects of the proposed variations for the first mile at tariff 1.

A comparison with other local authorities has also been included. The comparison shows the fares at tariff one for 2 miles as this is the lowest common denominator.

2014

<b>1st Mile</b>	
<b>Lancaster City (current)</b>	£3.46
<b>Proposal</b>	£3.57

**Neighbouring authorities for the first 2 miles compared to this proposal**

Lancaster	£5.33
South Ribble	£5.40
Fylde	£5.80
South Lakeland	£6.26

- 1.6 A ballot has now taken place with hackney proprietors. All proprietors were informed of the proposed variation, and were sent ballot papers. Ballot boxes were placed on the 14<sup>th</sup> April at both Lancaster and Morecambe Town Hall and at the VMU garage where the vehicles are tested. Proprietors were asked to respond by the close of business on the 20<sup>th</sup> May. Ninety-eight papers were sent out to the owners of the 108 hackney carriage vehicles currently licensed and fifteen ballot papers were returned. The proprietors were asked if they agreed that an increase in hackney carriage fares in line with the RPI is appropriate for the financial year 2014/15. Of the 15 papers returned 8 said yes and 7 said no.

**2.0 Conclusion**

- 2.1 Members are asked to consider whether to approve the amended table of fares to have effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July or any other date as determined by the committee and if so to authorise the Chief Officer (Governance) to advertise the table of fares as required by the legislation.

**CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

None applicable to this report.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Financial Services have advised on the relevant RPI rate.

**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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