

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 - Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares 24th March 2016

Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to enable Members to recommend for consultation with hackney carriage proprietors the proposed variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares in line with the current Retail Price Index (RPI) rate, and the further alternative proposal to add 10p to the flag falls on all Tariff rates.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. The Committee is requested to recommend for consultation with hackney carriage proprietors the 2 proposed variations of hackney carriage fares as set out in appendix 2 and 3 to the report**

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares initially came into effect from 18th October 2013 with a slight amendment to allow booking fees coming into force on the 7th 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 and 3 to this report.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee in February 2014 some members will recall that they approved an amendment to procedure in relation to the amendment of hackney carriage fares,
- 1.3 Members agreed that they would recommend 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 the particular financial year. A copy of the report considered by committee is attached at appendix 4 to this report
- 1.4 With regard to the current rate of inflation, Financial Services have confirmed that the latest available (January) RPI rate is 1.3%.
- 1.5 Members will note from appendix 2 that the change would be minimal, however there was no increase last year as the RPI was so low that officers considered it to be appropriate this year to present this proposal for consideration.
- 1.6 Officers would recommend that an alternative proposal be consulted upon with the hackney trade for consideration. Officers recommend that a 10p increase be added to the flag fall rates. This is the rate that the meter starts at when a customer gets

into the vehicle. This would change the flag fall as set out below. Officers have calculated that this proposal has the potential to raise an extra £120 per year in revenue for a driver only taking 5 fares a day over a 5 day week, working 48 weeks of the year, whilst only adding 10p to the metered fare for passengers. Members should note that this is a very conservative estimate. It is also worthy of note that the cost of fuel has dropped considerably over the past year.

Tariff	Current Flag Fall	Proposed Flag Fall
1	£2.40	£2.50
2	£3.60	£3.70
3	£4.80	£4.90

- 1.7 The result of the hackney carriage proprietors' vote will be reported back to the Committee in June, and if the outcome is that members are minded to proceed with a variation, the statutory procedure will require a notice to be placed in a local newspaper to allow for objections to be made.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 Members are asked to recommend the 2 proposed variations for consultation, in line with the procedures approved by this committee at the meeting in February 2014

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

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

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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