

LICENSING REGULATORY COMMITTEE

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 – Proposed Variation of Hackney Carriage Fares 2nd June 2016

Report of Licensing Manager

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report is to inform Members of the results of the consultation with hackney carriage proprietors in relation to the proposed variation of the current level of hackney carriage fares.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That Members note the results of the ballot, which has just taken place with hackney carriage proprietors in relation to a fare increase, as set out in appendix 2 to the report, and that the proposed table of fares will now be advertised as required by the legislation.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares initially came into effect from 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 to this report.
- 1.2 Members will recall that, at the meeting of the Licensing Regulatory Committee in March, they authorised the licensing manager to carry out a ballot of all hackney carriage proprietors in relation to a variation of the table of fares. The ballot is in line with the process approved by this committee in February 2014. Although it was determined that due to the low rate of RPI an alternative option would be given on this occasion.
- 1.3 Two options were put to the proprietors. The first option was for an increase in line with the current Retail Price Index 1.3% across all of the fares. The second proposal was that 10p be added to each flag fall rate. This effectively means that the cost of every taxi journey will be increased by 10p.
- 1.4 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 29th March at both Lancaster and Morecambe Town Halls and at the VMU garage where the vehicles are tested. Proprietors were asked to respond by the close of business on the 29th April. Ninety-eight papers were sent out to the owners of the 108 hackney carriage vehicles currently licensed and 14 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 2016/17. Alternatively they were asked, did they want an increase of 10p on each flag fall. They were also told to indicate no to each option if they did not think an increase was appropriate at this time. Of the 14 papers returned 12 elected to vote for the 10p increase on the flag fall.

There were no votes for an increase in line with the RPI and 2 voted for no increase at all. A copy of the letter sent to the proprietors as well as a copy of the ballot slip is attached at appendix 3 to this report.

2.0 Conclusion

- 2.1 As the majority of those that voted were in favour of the 10p increase in the flag fall, the licensing manager will now advertise the proposed table of fares in line with the current legislation. Any objections received within the 21 day representation period will be reported back to this committee. If no objections are received the table of fares will come into force at the end of the representation period or as soon as it is practicable for the proprietors to have their meters calibrated to the new rates.

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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