

REPORT NO. 5

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE MEETING OF 24th JULY 2017

Meeting: Executive
Date: 24th July 2017
Subject: Hackney Carriage Fares
Report of: Sarah Greenway – Senior Licensing Officer
Portfolio Holder: Cllr Neil Bannister
Status: For Decision
Relevant Ward(s): All

1 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To request that the Executive considers revising the tariffs set by the Council for Hackney Carriage Fares in Harborough District.

2 Recommendations:

2.1 That the Executive notes the report.

2.2 That the increase in Hackney Carriage Fares be agreed for public consultation as set out in Appendix A;

2.3 Delegation is given to the Corporate Director (NP) in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder to consider any representations received and;

2.4 Subject to the outcome of the consultation set out in 2.2 and 2.3 above the new Hackney Carriage Fare would take effect from 1st September 2017.

3 Summary of Reasons for the Recommendations

3.1 Section 65 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 gives a Local Authority the power to fix the rates or fares of Hackney Carriages with in its area (as well as all other charges in connection with the hire of the vehicle) by means of a table of fares.

3.2 To provide a transparent and evidence-based process for calculating Taxi fees.

4 Key Facts

- 4.1 As part of its taxi licensing function the Council has the power to fix the maximum rate of fares chargeable by Hackney Carriage Proprietors.
- 4.2 At the last Taxi Trade Meeting held in December 2016 a request was made to review the current Taxi Tariffs set by the Council. The Council's Taxi Licensing Policy states that "Fare rates are currently, normally only reviewed by the Council following representations from the trade or from a particular sector of the trade. The views of the taxi trade are sought to determine whether a consensus view emerges regarding the formula which should be used to set tariffs and if the trade supports proposals to review fares annually and wishes to see some simple formula used to help the Council determine the level of fare increases." The request of 5% is lower than the rates of inflation (source: consumer price index) since the last request was approved in June 2012
- 4.3 The request from the Taxi Trade was to increase Tariff Rates 1 and 5 by 5% and the proposed tariffs for Hackney Carriages can be found at Appendix A. Appendix B sets out the current rates in comparison to the new proposed rates. Appendix C sets out the minutes from the Taxi Trade meeting requesting the increase. There are a number of different Taxi Tariffs and the detail of each tariff is set out as below:

Tariff 1 – Hackney Carriages	Basic Chargeable rate to be paid when other tariffs do not apply.
Tariff 2 – Hackney Carriages	Rate chargeable for journeys which begin or end between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am including Sundays and Bank Holidays when Tariff 3 is charged.
Tariff 3- Hackney Carriages	Rate chargeable for journeys which from 4.00 pm Christmas Eve to 7.00 am 27 th December and 4.00pm New Years Eve to 7.00 am 2 nd January.
Tariff 5 - Minibuses	Basic Chargeable rate to be paid when other tariffs do not apply.
Tariff 6 - Minibuses	Rate chargeable for journeys which begin or end between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am including Sundays and Bank Holidays when Tariff 7 is charged.
Tariff 7 - Minibuses	Rate chargeable for journeys from 4.00pm Christmas Eve to 7.00 am 27 th December and 4.00pm New Year's Eve to 7.00 am 2 nd January.

- 4.4 Any proposed increase has to be advertised in at least one local newspaper specifying the date, not less than 14 days from the publication of notice, on which, subject to there being no objections, the changes come into effect.

- 4.5 Hackney carriage fares were last increased in June 2012, and since then the taxi trade have incurred increases in their operational costs such as staffing costs and insurance premiums etc.
- 4.6 By virtue of Section 65 of the Local Government Act 1976, a District Council may fix the rate of fares within the District in respect of Hackney Carriages. Under the legislation the Council has the power to set the fares charged for Hackney Carriage.
- 4.7 Currently the taxi tariffs are only reviewed on request by the taxi trade. However a piece of work will be undertaken to determine an appropriate means to assess appropriate taxi tariffs on a periodic basis to meet the needs of both the taxi trade and their customers.

5 Legal Issues

- 5.1 By virtue of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, a District Council may fix the rate of fares within the District in respect of hire of hackney carriages. Under this legislation the Council has the power to set the fares charged for hackney carriage journeys and thereby effectively controlling the income of hackney carriage proprietors. This is the only power Council's have to set the level of income for other people.

6 Resource Issues

- 6.1 Currently within existing budget provision

7 Equality Analysis Implications/Outcomes

- 7.1 This is a request and not a change to policy therefore no EIA was required in this instance.

8. Risk Management Implications

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

9 Consultation

- 9.1 Consultation was carried out with the Trade at its Taxi Liaison Meeting with the Council at its meeting on 7th December 2016.
- 9.2 The Portfolio Holder for Regulatory and Enforcement was consulted during the development of this report.

10. Options

- 10.1 Option 1 to do nothing would not allow the increase to be implemented.
- 10.2 Option 2 is to allow the increase, subject to the outcome of the consultation, which meets the request received from the Taxi Trade

11 Background Papers

11.1 File held in the Licensing department

Previous report(s): Regulatory Committee – June 2012.

Information Issued Under Sensitive Issue Procedure: N

Ward Members Notified: N

Appendices:

Appendix A - Proposed Taxi Tariff increase

Appendix B - Table Showing the Current Tariff with Proposed Tariff increases

Appendix C – Request from the Taxi Trade
