

# Non-Statutory Licensing Committee

10 July 2019

<b>Report Title</b>	Application for an Increase in Hackney Carriage Fares	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Ross Cook, Director of City Environment	
<b>Originating service</b>	Licensing Services	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Chris Howell	Licensing Manager
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## Recommendations for decision:

The Non-Statutory Licensing Committee is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposed increases in Hackney Carriage Fares as detailed in Appendix 1 and authorise the required publishing of a notice in a local newspaper detailing the proposed fare increase and stating a consultation period during which representations regarding the increase can be made.
2. Agree to receive a further report if at the end of the consultation period there are objections to the proposed fare increase.

## Recommendation for noting:

The Non-Statutory Licensing Committee is recommended to note:

1. That if at the end of the consultation period there are no objections to the proposed fare increase, implementation of the proposed increases will occur.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 To advise the Non-Statutory Licensing Committee of an application by the Taxi Owners Association (Wolverhampton) Ltd, Wolverhampton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association and Hackney Carriage Union for an increase in Hackney Carriage Fares and to seek Committee's approval for the setting of appropriate fares.

## **2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 Under the provision of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the fares charged by Hackney Carriage services are determined and set by the Local Authority in which they are licensed to trade. The Local Authority has no legal power to control the fares charged by Private Hire Vehicles.
- 2.2 The current fares have applied since 6 March 2013.
- 2.3 Applications were received from the Taxi Owners Association (Wolverhampton) Ltd, Wolverhampton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association and Hackney Carriage Union requesting an increase in Hackney Carriage Fares over the festive period. A copy of the proposed fares is attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.4 A copy of the existing fare table is attached at Appendix 2 to the report. Following dialogue with the trade, employees have sought to make the proposed table of fares clearer and easier to understand. The revised table will also, if approved, be issued to Hackney Carriages in an A4 format so it is more visible to customers.
- 2.5 In accordance with the Act a notice must be published in a local newspaper, stating the proposed fare increase and provide details of the route for representations. The notice must specify a date, which must not be less than 14 days from the date on which the notice is first published, by which date any representations regarding the fare increase must be made to the Council.
- 2.6 A copy of the notice must be available at the Council Offices for inspection, free of charge, at all reasonable hours.
- 2.7 Once the consultation period (in this instance 14 days) has expired, if there have been no representations received, or any received have been subsequently withdrawn, then the new fares take effect, either at the end of the consultation period or when the last representation is withdrawn. However, if representations are made and are not withdrawn, then Councillors must consider the representations and a further report will be presented to the Non-Statutory Licensing Committee.

## **3.0 Legal implications**

- 3.1 Section 65 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides:
  - (1) A district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the

arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- (2) (a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.
- (b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- (3) If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in subsection (2) of this section, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.

[SH/14062019/B]

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 The cost of the advertisement in the local newspaper and the production of new fare cards is likely to be in the region of £1,200 These costs will be met from within existing revenue budgets.

[MK/18062019/C]

#### **5.0 Equalities implications**

- 5.1 This report has no implications for the Council’s Equal Opportunities Policy.

#### **6.0 Environmental implications**

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 Human resources implications**

- 7.1 There are no human resources implications arising directly from this report.

#### **8.0 Corporate Landlord implications**

- 8.1 There are no Corporate Landlord implications arising directly from this report.

## **9.0 Schedule of Background Papers**

- 9.1 Licensing Committee 19 September 2008
- Licensing Committee 21 January 2009
- Licensing Committee 16 January 2013

**PROPOSED HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES**

<p><b><u>TARIFF 1</u></b> (6.00am - 11.00pm Monday - Saturday)</p> <p>INITIAL FARE (first ¼ mile)</p> <p>Each subsequent mile (charged at 10p increments)</p>	<p>£2.80</p> <p>£1.60</p>
<p><b><u>TARIFF 2</u></b> (11.00pm - 6.00am Monday – Thursday, 6.00am Sundays until 6.00am Monday and Bank Holidays from 6.00am)</p> <p>INITIAL FARE (first ¼ mile)</p> <p>Additional miles as Tariff 1</p>	<p>£3.50</p> <p>£1.60</p>
<p><b><u>TARIFF 3</u></b> (11.00pm - 6.00am Friday/Saturday – Saturday/Sunday and nights preceding a Bank Holiday from 11.00pm until 6.00am the following morning)</p> <p>INITIAL FARE (first ¼ mile)</p> <p>Each subsequent mile</p>	<p>£3.50</p> <p>£2.20</p>
<p>CHRISTMAS EVE 24 DECEMBER 6PM UNTIL 6AM 27 DECEMBER          NEW YEARS EVE 31 DECEMBER 6PM UNTIL 6AM 2 JANUARY</p> <p>Double Time Tariff 1</p>	
<p><b><u>OTHER</u></b></p> <p>Waiting time (every 30 seconds)</p> <p>Soiling charge</p>	<p>£ 0.10</p> <p>Up to £40.00</p>

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<p>CHRISTMAS EVE (only from 6pm) CHRISTMAS DAY, BOXING DAY, NEW YEARS EVE AND NEW YEARS DAY</p> <p>1½ Times Tariff 1</p>	
<p><b><u>OTHER</u></b></p> <p>Waiting time (every 30 seconds)</p> <p>Soiling charge</p> <p>Dated 6 March 2013</p>	<p>£ 0.10</p> <p>Up to £40.00</p>