

**LICENSING COMMITTEE – 13 OCTOBER 2010**

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING: PROPOSED FARE CHARGE INCREASE**

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Status: For Decision

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**Executive Summary:**

This report considers the appropriate Hackney Carriage permitted maximum fare increase to adopt from 01 December 2010 following consultation with the Hackney Carriage proprietors.

After requests for an increase from Hackney Carriage proprietors, all the Hackney Carriage proprietors, licensed by this Licensing Authority, were balloted on the three options in addition to an option of no change to the current fares.

The key differences on the ballot paper are increases in the amount for the initial 8/10 mile or a reduction to 6/10 mile for the existing charge. Proposal three provides the option of a £1.80 charge for hiring begun between 23:00 and 07:00 hours Monday to Friday and from 18:00 hours Saturday until 07:00 hours on Monday (except all bank & public holidays).

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**This report supports the Key Aim of** safe communities and effective management of Council Resources.

**Portfolio Holder** Cllr. Mrs Bracken

**Head of Service** Head of Environmental and Operational Services – Mr Richard Wilson

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**Recommendation:**

It is recommended that:

That Committee determines this application for an increase in the maximum hackney carriage fare tariffs and;

That, should the Committee approve the application, the Head of Environmental and Operational Services be authorised to publicise the proposed fare increase and that if no unresolved objections are received, the proposed fares take effect on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

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**Background/Introduction**

1. The Council exercises a discretionary power to set the maximum fares for Hackney Carriages within the District. The Council has no power to control the fares charged by private hire vehicle operators.
2. The current fare tariffs which have been in operation since 27<sup>th</sup> October 2008 are displayed in the first two columns:

<u>Tariff</u>	<u>Current fare</u>	<u>Proposal 1</u>	<u>Proposal 2</u>	<u>Proposal 3</u>
<u>(A) Distance - First 1,287.2 metres (8/10 mile)</u>	<u>£3.50</u>	<u>£3.80 for first (8/10 mile)</u>	<u>£3.50 for first (6/10 mile)</u>	<u>£3.50 for first (8/10 mile)</u>
<u>Each additional 160.9 metres (1/10 mile)</u>	<u>21p</u>			
<u>(B) Waiting time (standard rate) For each period of 1 minute</u>	<u>35p</u>			
<u>(C) Waiting time (with indicated extra charges applied as below)</u>  For each period of 1 minute <b>(ii)</b> <b>(iii)</b> <b>(iv)</b>	<u>50p</u> <u>50p</u> <u>65p</u>			
<b>(D) Extra charges</b>  <b>(i) Additional Passengers</b> (For each person in excess of four persons)	<u>25% of prescribed fare</u>			
<b>(ii) For hiring begun between 23:00 and 07:00 hours (except all bank &amp; public holidays)</b>	<u>£1.80 per fare</u>	£1.80 per fare	£1.80 per fare	

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<b>For hiring begun between 23:00 and 07:00 hours Monday to Friday and from 18:00 hours Saturday until 07:00 hours on Monday (except all bank &amp; public holidays)</b>				£1.80 per fare
<b>(iii) For hiring on bank &amp; public holidays (other than Christmas &amp; New Year holidays)</b>	<u>£2.00 per fare</u>			
<b>(iv) For hiring on Christmas &amp; New Year holidays (commencing 18:00 hours Christmas Eve to 18:00 hours 27<sup>th</sup> December and 18:00 hours New Year's Eve until 06:00 hours 2<sup>nd</sup> January )</b>	<u>100% of prescribed fare</u>			
<b>(v) For carriage of pets</b> (other than dogs for registered disabled people)	<u>£3.00 per fare</u>			
<b>Spoilage Charge – (any claim for damage causing spoilage to the interior of the vehicle MUST be a matter between the proprietor of the vehicle and the passenger)</b>				
<b>Passengers will pay for congestion charges, tolls and car parking while under hire</b>				

3. 265 ballot papers were sent out and 56 were returned, which equates to a return rate of 21 %.

4. The result of the ballot was as follows:

Proposal 1 - sixteen votes (28.6%)

Proposal 2 – twenty-four votes (42.9%)

Proposal 3 – three votes (5.36%)

No change – thirteen votes (but three of these votes also state option 3) (23.2%)

## Key Implications

### Financial

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5. The change in fare tariff agreed by the Committee will be formally advertised on Sevenoaks District Council's website and in a local newspaper.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

6. Council is following the appropriate process for determining applications for increases in the maximum fares chargeable by hackney carriage proprietors. Any changes to the fare tariffs must be publicised for 14 days. Any unresolved objections to the proposal will be reported to a future meeting of this Committee.

Equality

7. Hackney Carriage vehicles are an important part of the public transport service. The Council, having decided to exercise its discretion to set the maximum fares that can be charged must balance the need of ensuring access to the service and its profitability.

**RISK ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

8. No risk management issues have been identified.

**Sources of Information:** Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976.

Taxi Licensing Policy

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**COMMUNITY AND PLANNING SERVICES DIRECTOR  
KRISTEN PATERSON**