

HACKNEY CARRIAGE LICENSING: PROPOSED FARE CHARGE INCREASE

Licensing Committee - 9 July 2018

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status For Decision

Key Decision No

Executive Summary: This report seeks a direction from the Committee on options for reviewing the Council's current tariff of charges for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (following a request from the drivers).

This report supports the Key Aim of sustainable economy.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Anna Firth (Legal and Democratic Services)

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Recommendation to Licensing Committee: That the Committee advise on the way forward as detailed in paragraph 5 of the report.

Reason for recommendation: A request accompanied by a petition from some drivers has been received to increase the maximum charges set out in the Council's current approved tariff.

Introduction and Background

- 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 Please note that the fare set will be the maximum fare that can be charged and Hackney carriage drivers have the right to charge a lower amount should they wish to do so.
- 3 The current fare tariffs have been in operation since 1 May 2015 and are displayed in the table (including the former charges for comparison) below:

<u>Tariff</u>	OLD fare (2011 - 2015)	CURRENT TARIFF
<u>(A) Distance - First 1,287.2 metres (8/10 mile)</u>	<u>£3.80</u>	<u>£3.80 for first (1158 metres) - reduction in initial distance</u>
<u>Each additional 160.9 metres (1/10 mile)</u>	<u>21p</u>	21p every 152 metres - <i>reduction in distance</i>
<u>(B) Waiting time (standard rate) for each period of 1 minute</u>	<u>35p</u>	40p
<u>(C) Waiting time (with indicated extra charges applied as below)</u> For each period of 1 minute (ii) (iii) (iv)	<u>50p</u> <u>50p</u> <u>65p</u>	55p 55p 70p
<u>(D) Extra charges</u> (i) Additional Passengers (For each person in excess of four persons)	<u>25% of prescribed fare</u>	<u>25% of prescribed fare</u>
(ii) For hiring begun between 23:00 and 07:00 hours (except all bank & public holidays)	<u>£1.80 per fare</u>	£2.00 per fare
(iii) For hiring on bank & public holidays (other than Christmas & New Year holidays)	<u>£2.00 per fare</u>	£2.20 per fare

(iv) For hiring on Christmas & New Year holidays (commencing 18:00 hours Christmas Eve to 18:00 hours 27 th December and 18:00 hours New Year's Eve until 06:00 hours 2 nd January)	<u>100% of prescribed fare</u>	<u>100% of prescribed fare</u>
(v) For carriage of pets (other than dogs for registered disabled people)	<u>£3.00 per fare</u>	£3.30 per fare

Options for review or change

4 A copy of the request and petition is attached as Appendix A.

5 It is suggested that two options are available:

To direct the Licensing Service to carry out a consultation with all Hackney carriage drivers to ascertain their views on any proposed increase, and if they so wish, to direct specific queries or calls for specific evidence in support of the request

or

The Committee may decide that the request should not be considered at this time and decline to consult and leave the tariff as it is at present.

Key Implications

Financial

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 Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

The 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 Assessment

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

Appendices

Appendix A - request for review and petition from drivers

Background Papers

None.

Richard Wilson

Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services