

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976, SECTION 65
REQUEST TO INCREASE HACKNEY CARRIAGE MAXIMUM FARES**

Licensing Committee - 1 November 2018

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status For Decision

Key Decision No

Executive Summary: The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the hackney carriage trade to increase the maximum chargeable fares payable by the travelling public for hackney carriage journeys.

After receiving the request for an increase from a Hackney Carriage Driver, all the Hackney Carriage drivers, licensed by this Licensing Authority, were balloted on the option in addition to an option of no change to the current fares.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Anna Firth

Contact Officer Jessica Foley, Ext. 7480

Recommendation to Licensing Committee:

That the Committee determine this application for an increase in the maximum hackney carriage fare tariffs and, if an amendment is approved, that

- a) the Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services be authorised to publicise the proposed fare increase; and
- b) if no unresolved objections are received, the proposed fares take effect on 1 January 2019.

Reason for recommendation: The setting of fares is a statutory duty placed upon the Council and it is the Council's responsibility to strike a balance between setting a fare that is acceptable to the customer and to the taxi driver.

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 which have been in operation since 1 May 2015 are displayed in the table below along with the proposed fare increase:

Please note we are changing the measurements of distance from metres to miles and yards.

Tariff	Current fare	Proposal
(A) Distance - First 1,158 metres	£3.80	£4.60 for the first mile (1760 yards) (1609.34 metres for comparison).
(A2) Each additional 152 metres (0.0944484 mile) 166.229 yards	21p	22p per (166.229 yards) (152 metres for comparison). (Around an additional 10p per mile)
(B) Waiting time (standard rate) for each period of 1 minute	40p	45p
(C) Waiting time (with indicated extra charges applied as below)		
For each period of 1 minute (ii)	55p	65p
(iii)	55p	65p
(iv)	70p	90p
(D) Extra charges		
(i) Additional Passengers (For each person in excess of four persons)	25% of prescribed fare	Keep the same
(ii) For hiring begun between 23:00 and 07:00 hours (except all bank & public holidays)	£2.00 per fare	Keep the same
(iii) For hiring on bank & public holidays (other than Christmas & New Year holidays)	£2.20 per fare	Keep the same
(iv) For hiring on Christmas & New Year holidays (commencing 18:00 hours Christmas Eve to 18:00 hours 27 th December and 18:00	100% of prescribed fare	Keep the same

hours New Year's Eve until 06:00 hours 2 nd January)		
(v) For carriage of pets (other than dogs for registered disabled people)	£3.30 per fare	Keep the same

Responses to the consultation

- 4 A total of 250 letters were sent to all the Hackney carriage drivers. 85 responses were received in total. To the question 'Do you want a fare increase?' 78 answered 'Yes' and 7 answered 'No'.
- 5 10 were in favour of the proposed fare increase in its entirety, 5 voted to leave the fares as they currently are. 2 said 'No' to an increase, yet suggested small changes and 68 said 'Yes' to an increase but commented on some changes.
- 6 Please see the table below for a breakdown of results per question.

Tariff	Voted Yes, agree with proposal	Voted No, disagree with proposal
A	35	50
A2	37	48
B	80	5
C	80	5
D(i)	84	1
D(ii)	84	1
D(iii)	84	1
D(iv)	84	1
D(v)	59	26

- 7 Some alternatives were put forward for some of the Tariffs. Please see table attached to this report as Appendix A.
- 8 Some feedback from the trade was also received which is attached to this report as Appendix B.

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.

No risk management issues have been identified.

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.

Conclusions

The purpose of this report is to consider a request from the hackney carriage trade to increase the maximum chargeable fares payable by the travelling public for hackney carriage journeys.

The options available are to:-

1. agree the proposed increase as detailed above;
2. agree to an increase but change the amounts using information received from the trade consultation detailed in appendix A and Drafted in Appendix C
3. reject the proposal for a Maximum Fare increase and leave the Fare Tariffs as they are.

Appendices

Appendix A - Table to show alternative proposals.

Appendix B - Feedback and written comments from some of the trade.

Appendix C - Draft Fare Chart using most popular results

Background Papers

[Sevenoaks District Council Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy.](#)

Richard Wilson

Chief Officer Environmental & Operational Services