

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

Licensing Committee - 4 January 2022

Report of: Chief Officer Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Decision

Key Decision: No

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. McArthur

Contact Officer: Susan Lindsey Ext.7491

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 licensed drivers has been received to increase the 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 that 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 January 2019 and are displayed in **Appendix A**.
- 4 During consultation in relation to the setting of taxi fees, a proposal was put forward supported by 44 license holders to increase the current Hackney Carriage fare tariff.
- 5 The reasons set out in this proposal for an increase are:
 - a) to assist the trade in making up for losses incurred during covid lockdowns, and

b) that driving costs are constantly increasing with petrol and service charges becoming increasingly more expensive.

6 This proposal is at **Appendix C**

7 The changes proposed are:

- Charge for the first 880 yards (5/10 mile) or part thereof Pounds 4 Pence 20.
- Then each additional 176 yards approx (1/10 mile) Pounds 0 Pence 30
- Waiting time for each period of 1 minute Pounds 0 Pence 50
- For hiring begun between 10pm and 7am (except all Bank & Public holidays)

8 The proposed changes are highlighted in the fare tariff at **Appendix B**.

Options for review or change

9 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/or changes.

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 both on the Sevenoaks District Council website, and in a local newspaper, as well as notices erected both at the Argyle Road Reception and Dunbrik Garage.

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

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

Net Zero Implications

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the council's ambition to be Net Zero by 2030. There is no perceived impact regarding either an increase or decrease in carbon emissions in the district, or supporting the resilience of the natural environment.

Appendices

Appendix A - Current Hackney Carriage Tariff

Appendix B - Proposed Hackney Carriage Tariff

Appendix C - Written proposal supported by 44 licence holders

Background Papers

None

Richard Morris
Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services