

11 October 2012		ITEM: 6
Licensing Committee		
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES		
Report of: Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non key	
Accountable Head of Service: Lucy Magill, Head of Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Jo Olsson – Director of People Services		
This report is Public		
<i>If the report, or a part of this, has been classified as being either confidential or exempt by reference to the descriptions in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, it is hereby marked as being not for publication. The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of any confidential or exempt items of business to which the report relates.</i>		
Date of notice given of exempt or confidential report: not applicable		
Purpose of Report: To consider representations received in relation to the proposed increase in the Hackney Carriage Fare		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Authorities have a power to set fares for hackney carriages. Following a request from the trade associations to increase the hackney carriage fare a revised table of fares has been consulted upon. Objection in relation to the increase has been received and must be considered by the Licensing Committee.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

1.1 That the Committee -

- a) approves the proposed table of fares as proposed in appendix 2, or,
- b) rejects the proposed changes to the table of fares and keeps the table of fares, as detailed in appendix 1, or,

c) **modifies the proposed table of fares following consideration of the objections received.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 Local Authorities have the power to set fares for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 2.2 The setting of fares relates to the council fixing the rates or fares within the district, this may include what is charged for time and distance travelled and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for hire of a vehicle.
- 2.3 The rate or fares set is known as the “table of fares”.
- 2.4 This fare is the maximum amount that can be charged, an individual driver does have the ability to charge below the amount prescribed in the table of fares if they chose to do so.
- 2.5 The table of fares were last set with effect from 27 August 2008; a copy is attached as appendix 1.
- 2.6 The cost of providing and running a hackney carriage vehicle has increased since the fare was set in 2008 especially as the price of fuel, insurance and licence fees have all increased over that period of time.
- 2.7 The power to set fares is provided by Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 2.8 When this power is exercised the Local Authority must publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares allowing not less than 14 days for objection to be made. The Local Authority must make available at their offices a copy of said notice.
- 2.9 If after the 14 days no objection has been received or received and withdrawn, then the new fare takes effect from the date published in the notice.
- 2.10 If objection has been received and not withdrawn the Local Authority must consider the objection and may make changes to the proposed table of fares as it feel necessary, or it may chose to not make any changes to the proposal.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 Request have been received from two of the three Taxi Trade Associations that exist within Thurrock for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Fare, these requests were combined into a one proposed table of fares which was agreed by both trade associations that made the request.
- 3.2 The proposed table of fares is attached as appendix 2.

3.3 There have been nine written objections in relation to the proposed table of fares which are attached as appendix 3.

3.4 The Licensing Committee must consider the objection and decide if they wish to make any changes to the proposal.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 It is for the committee to decide the level of the tariff based upon the representation made against the proposal, the recommendation sets out the options that are available for the committee.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The consultation has been carried out in accordance with the requirements contained within Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

5.2 A notice was published in the Enquirer on Thursday 13th September 2012, a Notice was placed on Thurrock Council's Website and a notice was posted on the public notice board at the front of the Civic Offices.

5.3 In Addition to this a copy of the proposed table of fares has been sent to all Hackney Carriage Drivers.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

6.1 None.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Michael Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375 652277**
mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

There are no financial implications for Thurrock Council.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**
Telephone and email: **01375 652087**
david.lawson@bdtlegal.org.uk

The legal implications are well set out in the body of the report

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
Telephone and email: **01375652472**
sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

The table of fares does not allow additional charges to be made for passengers accompanied by guide dogs or wheelchair users. This recognises the relevant duty set out in legislation to make reasonable adjustments for disabled users of Hackney Carriages.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1 – Existing table of fares dated 27 August 2008
- Appendix 2 – Proposed table of fares
- Appendix 3 – Copies of the written objections

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