

13 July 2022		Item: 17
Decision: 110620		
Cabinet		
Hackney Carriage Fares		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Key	
Report of: Councillor Rob Gledhill – Leader and Cabinet Member for Public Protection and Anti-Social Behaviour		
Accountable Assistant Director: Leigh Nicholson, Assistant Director Planning, Transport and Public Protection		
Accountable Director: Julie Rogers, Director of Public Realm		
This report is: Public		

Executive Summary

Local Authorities have a power to set fares for hackney carriages. A request from representatives of the hackney carriage trade has been received for an increase in the Taxi Fare, this report seeks agreement to allow for public consultation in accordance with the statutory requirements.

1. Recommendation(s):

- 1.1. **That Cabinet agrees for the proposed table of fares, as set out in Appendix A, to go out for public consultation, in accordance with the statutory requirement.**

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 November 2012; details are provided in **Appendix A**.
- 2.6 The cost of providing and running a hackney carriage vehicle has significantly increased since the fare was set in 2012, this increase is being requested to rebalance to costs with the income achieved to ensure that a living wage can be achieved.
- 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- 2.9 If after the 14 days no objection has been received or received and withdrawn, then the new fare takes effect from the date published in the notice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 feels necessary, or it may choose to not make any changes to the proposal.
- 2.11 If objection is received a report will be brought back to Cabinet for consideration. The new fare will then come into effect within two months of the original date.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

- 3.1 A request from representatives of the hackney carriage trade has been received for an increase in the Taxi Fare.
- 3.2 The proposes table of fares are detailed in **Appendix A**, along with a comparison on the difference in cost for a journey of varying distance.
- 3.3 It is intended that the new table of fares will come into effect from 5 August 2022.

4. Reasons for Recommendation

4.1 The process of setting Hackney carriage Fares is prescribed by the legislation; this recommendation is compliant with the procedure to be followed.

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

5.1 Following agreement by this committee the public consultation will be carried out in accordance with the requirements contained within Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

5.2 A notice will be published in a local paper the week beginning the 18 July 2022 and will be posted on Thurrock Councils Website and on the public notice board at the front of the Civic Offices, giving 14 days for representations to be made.

5.3 If no representations are received, then the proposed table of fares will come into effect on the 5 August 2022.

5.4 If representation is received, then that representation will be presented to Cabinet for consideration.

6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

6.1 None.

7. Implications

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**
Senior Management Accountant

There are no direct financial implications for Thurrock Council arising from this report.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Simon Scrowther**
Litigation Lawyer

(1) A district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter

in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- (2) (a) When a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof and specifying the period, which shall not be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.
- (3) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.

7.3 **Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Lee**

Team Manager, Community Development

A Community Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for the proposed revised Hackney Carriage Fares informed by the consultation process. 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. Staff, Health Inequalities, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, and Impact on Looked After Children

None

8. **Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council’s website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- None

9. **Appendices to the report**

- **Appendix A** – Details of Current Table of Fares and Proposed Table of Fares.

Report Author:

Paul Adams

Licensing Manager, Public Protection