

HACKNEY CARRIAGE AND PRIVATE HIRE LICENSING: HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE TARIFF

Licensing Committee - 23rd March 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:

- a) To consider the adoption of a new Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff taking into account the response received following the trade and public consultation

Reason for recommendation:

To enable the Hackney Carriage trade within the District to continue to operate economically whilst still maintaining an efficient, safe and cost effective service for those residents of, and visitors to, Sevenoaks District who need to use the services of a Hackney Carriage.

Introduction and Background

1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 permits District Councils to set the fares tariff for Hackney Carriages licensed in the District and this Council, in common with most other Councils, have used this power for many years. The setting of the fares for hackney carriages is a function for this Council's Licensing Committee.
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. On 4th January 2022 the Licensing Committee approved advertising the proposed new fare tariff that appears at **Appendix A** to this report. (For reference the current fare tariff appears at **Appendix B**)

4. Member's attention is drawn to the fact that this proposed increase was supported by 44 licence holders.
5. A consultation period took place between 6th January 2022 and 7th February 2022. The Sevenoaks District Hackney trade were notified directly by email or letter, a notice was placed in a local newspaper, and notices of the proposed tariff and how to comment were displayed on the Council website, at the Council offices in Argyle Road, and Dunbrik Garage.
6. Two responses to the consultation were received from licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and these appear at **Appendix C** to this report
7. Should the Licensing Committee be minded to approve an increase in the fare tariff, taxi meters will need to be changed at the expense of each owner, with details of the new tariff being changed by the meter suppliers to address the increase.
8. Licensing Officers will inform the taxi trade of the requirement under point 7 above, and licence holders will be notified they may change their vehicle meters from 1st May 2022. This will allow officers time to arrange for the printing of new tariff cards.
9. The tariff card bearing the new rate must be displayed in a prominent position within the vehicle. It will be acceptable for meters to be calibrated at a lower rate than that shown on the Council's tariff. However, any cumulative rate charged must not exceed the Council's maximum. Where lower rates are set, an additional tariff card showing those rates must also be displayed in a prominent position within the vehicle.

Key Implications

Financial

The proposed changes in fare tariff have been formally advertised in the local press, advertised on the Sevenoaks District Council website, a notice placed at the reception offices of Argyle Road, and a notice placed at the Dunbrik Garage

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

The legal implications are as set out elsewhere in this report.

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

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:

- a) Agree the proposed increase as detailed in **Appendix A**
- b) Agree to an increase, but change the amounts using information received from the consultation detailed in **Appendix C**
- c) Reject the proposal for a maximum fare increase and leave the fare tariffs as they are

Appendices

Appendix A - Proposed new Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff

Appendix B - Existing Hackney Carriage Fare Tariff

Appendix C - Responses to consultation

Background Papers

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

Richard Morris
Chief Officer Planning and Regulatory Services