

AGENDA NO

OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2022

REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ADMINISTRATION, DEMOCRATIC AND
ELECTORAL SERVICES

VARIATION TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for Members to consider a proposal to vary the tariffs levied in respect of hackney carriage fares.

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Members agree the proposed tariffs can be advertised as part of the statutory public consultation.
2. That Members note if no objections are received the tariff is agreed and implemented the day after the 14 day public consultation ends.

Detail

1. Section 65 of The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides for a District Council to fix the rates of fares for Hackney Carriage Vehicles (HCV). It may fix the fares on time as well as distance and any other charges that may be made in connection with the hiring of the vehicle. The relevant section is reproduced in full at **Appendix 1**.
2. A formal request for an increase in tariffs has been made by the hackney carriage trade. The last increase in hackney carriage tariffs took place in 2008, the current hackney carriage tariff is attached as **Appendix 2**.
3. The Council have 274 licensed HCV's and these are owned between 221 proprietors, all proprietors were sent a letter outlining the proposal, a copy of the trade consultation letter is attached as **Appendix 3**.
4. Nine proprietors replied and their responses are attached as **Appendix 4**. All agreed with the proposal. As the proposal was put forward by the trade, the consultation letter asked for the trade to respond if they did not agree with the proposal. The low response to the consultation confirms the proposal is supported by the trade.
5. Recent tariff increases have taken place across the Tees Valley and comparison tariffs are attached at **Appendix 5**.
6. Members will be aware that any tariff set is the maximum that can be charged for a fare. Hackney carriage proprietors are perfectly at liberty to charge less than the metered fare.
7. If Members are minded to agree the proposal to increase the tariffs, that decision will be subject to statutory consultation by way of an public notice advertisement in a local newspaper. After the 14 day consultation if no objections are received the tariff is agreed and implemented the following day.

8. In the event of objections as a result of the statutory consultation there is a requirement that these be considered. If, after consideration of any objections, it is decided to increase the tariff then a further implementation date will be set. The draft public notice is attached at **Appendix 6.**
9. The proposed increase in tariffs applies only to hackney carriages, as licensing authorities have no power to set fares for private hire vehicles.
10. After consultation and if the increase is implemented individual members of the Hackney Carriage trade will be informed via letter and a copy will be sent to the Stockton Hackney Carriage Driver Association. Changes will also be publicised on the trade Facebook page and via the Council website.

**Assistant Director Administration
Democratic and Electoral Services**

Contact Officer Name:

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Financial Implications:

Environmental Implications:

Legal Implications:

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None

None

If a person or body is aggrieved with a decision taken by the Council then they may pursue a judicial review to the Administrative Court. A person or body would be expected issue proceedings promptly and in any event no longer than three months after the date of the decision about which they are aggrieved.

Community Safety Implications:

Control and regulation of the private hire and hackney carriage trade ensures the safety of the public and other road users.

Human Rights Implications:

None

Background Papers:

Appendices

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward related