

AGENDA NO

OTHER LICENSING COMMITTEE

8 AUGUST 2023

**REPORT OF ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
COMMUNITY SAFETY AND REGULATED
SERVICES**

VARIATION TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFFS

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. Members agree the proposed tariffs can be advertised as part of the statutory public consultation.
2. 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 attached at **Appendix 1**.
2. The last variation to hackney carriage tariffs took place in April 2022. A formal request to vary the tariffs again has been made by members of the hackney carriage trade, including the Stockton Hackney Carriage Drivers Association (SHCDA). The request which includes the current hackney carriage tariffs for comparison is attached at **Appendix 2**.
3. The Licensing Service carried out an online public consultation which included all Council members and Responsible Authorities including the police. All members of the transport trade were sent information on and a link to the consultation in writing and via email.
4. The consultation and how to make comments was also advertised to the public on the Council website, via social media and library notice boards.
5. There were 105 responses to the consultation, full results can be found at **Appendix 3**. In summary:

Variation to Tariff 1

	Agree with proposed wording – 79%	Disagree proposed wording – 13%	Neither agree or disagree 7%
Combined driver	45	9	0
Hackney carriage driver	17	1	0
Private hire driver	8	2	3

Variation to Tariff 2

	Agree with proposed wording – 73%	Disagree proposed wording -15%	Neither agree or disagree – 11%
Combined driver	42	11	1
Hackney carriage driver	14	2	1
Private hire driver	10	1	4

Variation to Tariff 3

	Agree with proposed wording – 69%	Disagree proposed wording – 16%	Neither agree or disagree – 14%
Combined driver	37	10	7
Hackney carriage driver	11	4	1
Private hire driver	11	1	2

Introduction of Tariff 4

	Agree with proposed wording – 66%	Disagree proposed wording – 21%	Neither agree or disagree – 12%
Combined driver	37	11	6
Hackney carriage driver	11	6	0
Private hire driver	10	1	3

6. Variations to hackney carriage tariffs have taken place across the country. Tariffs in the Borough continue to be one of the lowest, ranked 333 out of 344 licensing authorities for a two mile journey. Comparison tables published in a trade monthly magazine are attached at **Appendix 4** and can be viewed fully online at: [PHTM July 2023 Issue 370 :: 68 \(yudu.com\)](https://www.yudu.com/PHTM/July-2023-Issue-370-68)
7. Members will be aware that any tariff set is the maximum that can be charged for a fare, driver are perfectly at liberty to charge less than the metered fare.
8. If Members are minded to agree the proposal to vary 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.
9. In the event of objections there is a requirement that these be considered. If, after consideration of any objections, it is decided to vary the tariff then a further implementation date will be set.
10. The proposed variation to tariffs applies only to hackney carriages, as licensing authorities have no power to set fares for private hire vehicles.
11. After consultation and if the variation 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 Community Safety
And Regulated Services**

Contact Officer Name:

Telephone No.

Email Address:

Financial Implications:

Environmental Implications:

Legal Implications:

Community Safety Implications:

Human Rights Implications:

Background Papers:

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

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The Trade licensing fees are set locally.

Changes to the policy can support the Environmental Strategy.

If a person is aggrieved with the adoption of the Private Hire & Hackney Carriage Licensing Policy then they could challenge it by Judicial Review proceedings before the Administrative Court. A claimant must file a claim promptly, and in any event not later than three months after the first grounds arose. Any decision taken on the implementation of a new policy could be judicially reviewed within 10 weeks to the Administrative Court. The implementation and operation of the policy will be done in accordance with the legislation and associated guidance.

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

None

Appendices

Not ward related