

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2020

TITLE: REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE
TARIFFS

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RECOMMENDED that:

- A** The Licensing Committee recommend to Cabinet that the Hackney Carriage Tariff Schedule, attached as Appendix A to the report, be adopted.

BACKGROUND

1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives Councils power to determine maximum rates and fares charged by Hackney Carriages.

ISSUES/PROPOSALS

2. Representatives of the Hackney Carriage trade recognised by the Council for consultation purposes have proposed increases to the Hackney Carriage tariffs to take effect late Autumn 2020 (exact date to be confirmed).
3. There have been no increases whatsoever since November 2014.
4. The proposed rate rise is as follows:
 - a) Tariff 1 = 5.2%
 - b) Tariff 2 = 4.8%
 - c) Tariff 3 = 5.9%
 - d) Tariff 4 = 4.9%
5. The overall average rise = 5.2 per cent (waiting times are unchanged.)
6. Other changes include:
 - a) An amendment to rate 4 is proposed allowing it to be used outside the boundary of Harlow from 6pm during Christmas and New Year holidays.

- b) A damage and soiling charge is now specified as £75. Previously, no amount was specified.

7. In context, historical UK inflation rates since the last increase in 2014 are as follows:

2015	0%
2016	0.7%
2017	2.7%
2018	2.5%
2019	1.8%

8. Taking an example of a 2014 price; tariff 2 for a four mile journey, the current price is £10.60. Applying the inflation costs for the period 2015 – 2019 (as specified above) this would equate to £11.61. The actual proposed price for 2020 is below this at £11.10.
9. The proposed revised tariffs, with these increases included, can be seen at Appendix A to the report.
10. The existing tariffs approved in 2014 can be seen at Appendix B to the report.
11. The Council is required to publish a notice in a local paper when Hackney Carriage tariffs are varied. The notice must contain the proposed tariff and specify the period in which objections can be made, this being 14 days from the date that the notice is published in the paper.
12. A copy of the notice must also be available at the Council offices for a period of 14 days from the date of the first publication in the local paper.
13. If an objection is received within the consultation period, it must be considered. If the Council determines to revise its decision on the tariffs as a result of an objection, a revised date would be set for the implementation of the revised tariff increase.
14. Article 1 of the First Protocol of Human Rights Act 1998 guarantees the right of peaceful enjoyment of possessions. Imposing of controls on Hackney Carriage tariffs is an interference with this right. However, it is permissible to use existing laws to control the use of property in accordance with the general interest.
15. Provided the Committee is satisfied that control of the tariff is in the public interest and that the tariff adopted is reasonable, there would be no unjustifiable breach of this article.

IMPLICATIONS

Environment and Planning (Includes Sustainability)

As set out in the report.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Head of Environment and Planning

Finance (Includes ICT and Property and Facilities)

None specific.

Author: Simon Freeman, Head of Finance and Deputy to the Chief Executive

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Head of Housing

Community Wellbeing (Includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None specific.

Author: Jane Greer, Head of Community Wellbeing

Governance (Includes HR)

Provided that proper consultation is undertaken and that all advertising requirements are discharged the risk to successful challenge is minimal.

Author: Simon Hill, Head of Governance

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed Revised Tariff

Appendix B – Existing Tariffs Approved in 2014