

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 5 JULY 2022

TITLE: REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFFS

LEAD OFFICER: MICHAEL PITT, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
ENVIRONMENT (01279) 446114

CONTRIBUTING OFFICER: ADAM SHERWOOD, PRINCIPAL LICENSING
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RECOMMENDED that:

- A** The Licensing Committee recommend to the next Cabinet meeting on 21 July 2022 that consultation as set out in the report be commenced, and the Hackney Carriage Tariff Schedule, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted for implementation in the absence of objections.
- B** Subject to A, and in the absence of objections, the Assistant Director Environment be authorised to take the necessary steps as set out in the report to implement the tariff changes with effect from 12 August 2022.
- C** Subject to A, should any objections to the proposed tariff be received during the consultation period, implementation of the proposed Hackney Carriage Tariff Schedule be deferred pending consideration of objections at the forthcoming meeting of this Committee on 6 September 2022, and recommendation to the next available meeting of Cabinet.

BACKGROUND

1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976 gives local authorities 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.
3. The previous two increases were November 2014 and November 2020. The increase in 2020 was below the cumulative UK inflation rate for the preceding 6 years.
4. Month on month the annual UK inflation rate continues to increase and rose to 9 per cent in April 2022, prompted by rising prices for housing and utilities and the cost of fuel for transport. The annual UK inflation rate for 2020 was 0.99 per cent, and for 2019 was 1.74 per cent.

5. The proposed rate rise for 2022 is as follows:
 - a) Tariff 1 = 6.6 per cent
 - b) Tariff 2 = 6.0 per cent
 - c) Tariff 3 = 6.9 per cent
 - d) Tariff 4 = 6.4 per cent
6. The overall average rise for all Tariffs = 6.5 per cent
7. Other changes include:
 - a) Tariff 1 & 2 to increase waiting time 11.8 per cent
 - b) Tariff 3 & 4 to increase waiting time 4.6 per cent

A one hour wait on any of the tariffs 1-4 would see an increase between £1.43 - £2.23.

8. The proposed revised tariffs, with these increases included, is set out at Appendix A to the report.
9. The existing tariffs approved in 2020 is set out in Appendix B to the report.
10. If members agree to approve the increase in fares and charges to the Hackney Carriage tariff, then the Council is required to publish a notice in a local paper, the Council shall place the public notice in the Harlow Guardian newspaper.
11. 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 first published in the paper.
12. The notice shall be placed in the newspaper on Thursday 28 July 2022 with the consultation ending Thursday 11 August 2022.
13. A copy of the paper with the notice must also be made available at the Council offices for public inspection for a period of 14 days from the date the notice is first published.
14. If no objection is received, the revised tariffs will come into operation from Friday 12 August 2022.
15. 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 following a further referral from this Committee to Cabinet.
16. Each hackney carriage meter shall be upgraded to the new tariff as arranged directly with the regions meter installation engineer. The Council shall inform drivers and the meter installation engineer at the end of the consultation period whether any objections were received before commencement of meter upgrades.

17. 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.
18. Provided Members are 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

Strategic Growth and Regeneration

None specific.

Author: Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration

Finance

None specific.

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

Housing

None specific.

Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing

Communities and Environment

As set out in the report.

Author: Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment

Governance and Corporate Services

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

Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services

Appendices

Appendix A - Proposed Revised Tariffs for 2022

Appendix B - Existing Tariffs Approved in 2020

Background Papers

None

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None