

REPORT TO: LICENSING COMMITTEE

DATE: 4 JULY 2023

TITLE: REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFFS

LEAD OFFICER: NORAH NOLAN, INTERIM ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENT (01279) 446132

CONTRIBUTING OFFICERS: ADAM SHERWOOD, PRINCIPAL LICENSING
OFFICER (01279) 446010

AMANDA TURNER SENIOR LICENSING OFFICER
(01279) 446122

RECOMMENDED that:

- A** The Licensing Committee recommend to the next Cabinet meeting on 13 July 2023 that the Hackney Carriage Tariff Schedule, as set out in Appendix A to the report, be adopted.
- B** If members approve the tariff, the Interim Assistant Director Environment be authorised to take the necessary steps as stated in the report to implement the tariff changes with effect from 4 August 2023, provided that no objections to the proposals are received; or
- C** If any objections are received to the proposed changes following the consultation period, that the decision be referred to the next meeting of this Committee on 5 September 2023.

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 2020 and August 2022.
4. Month on month the annual UK inflation rate continues to increase and jumped to 10 per cent in April 2023, prompted by rising prices for housing and utilities and the cost for fuel for transport. The annual UK inflation rate for 2022 was 9 per cent, 2020 was 0.99 per cent, and 1.74 per cent in 2019.
5. The proposed rate rises for 2023 is as follows:

- a) Tariff 1 = 4.62 per cent
- b) Tariff 2 = 4.91 per cent
- c) Tariff 3 = 4.48 per cent
- d) Tariff 4 = 5.13 per cent

6. The overall average rise for all Tariffs = 4.78 per cent
7. Bringing the Start of the evening rate on Tariff 2 and Tariff 4 forward by 2 hours from 10.00pm to 8.00pm is the only other change.
8. The proposed revised tariffs, with these increases included, is set out Appendix A to the report.
9. The existing tariffs approved in 2022 are 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 20 July 2023 with the consultation ending Thursday 3 August 2023.
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 4 August 2023.
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 because 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

As set out in the report.

Author: James Gardner, Assistant Director Regeneration and Commercial Development

Finance

The tariffs have no direct impact on the Councils budgets.

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

Housing

As contained within the report.

Author: Neil Euesden, Interim Director of Housing

Communities and Environment

As set out in the report.

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

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 2023

Appendix B - Existing Tariffs Approved in 2022

Background Papers

None

Glossary of terms/abbreviations used

None