



Report Reference Number: L/18/14

To: Licensing Committee
Date: 8th October 2018
Status: Non Key Decision
Ward(s) Affected: *Whole District*
Author: Sharon Cousins – Licensing Manager
Lead Executive Member: Councillor Pearson
Lead Officer: Jade Reynolds- Solicitor

Title: Proposed Hackney Carriage Fare increase

Summary:

The last time the Hackney Carriage table of fares was increased was 2013. Officers are requesting approval to consult with the Hackney Carriage trade on a proposed increase of 2.5% to the Hackney Carriage fares.

Recommendations:

To authorise a consultation on the fares increase of 2.5% as proposed in the report and note that, subject to considering the responses, the Solicitor will consult with the Chair of Licensing before exercising her delegated powers to implement any increase.

Reasons for recommendation

The consumer price index is currently at 2.5% and it is therefore recommended that this is the amount that should be proposed for the Hackney carriage fare increase.

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. Every two years the Licensing department consult with the Hackney Carriage trade to obtain their views on a proposed increase in fares.
- 1.2. There has been no increase in the hackney carriage table of fares since April 2013. The consultation was not carried out last year, Officers recommend that we consult this year.

2. Why should the fares be increased

- 2.1. Fuel costs have risen 20% since 2015 when the fares were last reviewed.

2.2. The consumer price index in March 2018 was 2.5%. The consumer price index in March 2015 when fares were reviewed was 0.0%. It is therefore recommended that 2.5% is the appropriate increase to be consulted upon.

3. Implications

3.1. Appendix A shows the existing Hackney Carriage Fare prices and the proposed fares, if the 2.5% increase was agreed.

4. Legal Implications

4.1. The power to set or vary the fares for Hackney Carriages is contained under the provisions of section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

4.2. Section 65 requires that any variations to the fares must be advertised in a local papers and that a period of notice of at least 14 days to be given to allow for objections against the proposal.

4.3. Any objections received will have to be considered. If an increase is agreed, it would be published in a local newspaper and come into force in April 2019.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. The public would have an increase in fare costs. Hackney Carriages have the option to agree a lower fare than the approved tariff but may not charge a higher rate. Some may choose not to implement the revised fares.

5.2. The associated costs of advertising will be covered by the Licensing Department.

6. Conclusion

6.1. Licensing Committee Members to consider and approve consultation with the trade on the proposed increase to the existing Hackney Carriage table of fares by 2.5% and to advertise in the local newspaper and for Officers to implement any changes after consultation with the Chair of Licensing

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Existing and proposed table of HC Fares

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