

11 October 2016

Planning and Licensing Committee

Hackney Carriage Fares

Report of: *Paul Adams, Principal Licensing Officer*

Wards Affected: *All*

This report is: *Public*

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a power to set fares for hackney carriages. A request from representatives of the hackney carriage trade via the TTCG (Taxi Trade Consultative Group) has been received for an increase in the Taxi Fare, this reports seeks agreement to allow for public consultation as in accordance with the statutory requirements.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the Committee agrees for the proposed table of fares, as set out in appendix A, to go out for public consultation, in accordance with the statutory requirement.**

3. Introduction and Background

- 3.1 Local Authorities have the power to set fares for hackney carriage vehicles.
- 3.2 The setting of fares relates to the council fixing the rates or fares within the district, this may include what is charged for time and distance travelled and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for hire of a vehicle.
- 3.3 The rate or fares set is known as the "table of fares"
- 3.4 This fare is the maximum amount that can be charged, an individual driver does have the ability to charge below the amount prescribed in the table of fares if they chose to do so.

- 3.5 The table of fares were last set with effect from December 2014 as detailed in Appendix A.
- 3.6 The cost of providing and running a hackney carriage vehicle has increased since the fare was set in 2014 , this increase is being requested to rebalance to costs with the income achieved to ensure that a living wage can be achieved.
- 3.7 The power to set fares is provided by Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 3.8 When this power is exercised the Local Authority must publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares allowing not less than 14 days for objection to be made. The Local Authority must make available at their offices a copy of said notice.
- 3.9 If after the 14 days no objection has been received or received and withdrawn, then the new fare takes effect from the date published in the notice.
- 3.10 If objection has been received and not withdrawn the Local Authority must consider the objection and may make changes to the proposed table of fares as it feel necessary, or it may chose to not make any changes to the proposal.

4. Issue, Options and Analysis of Options

- 4.1 A request from representatives of the hackney carriage trade via the TTCG (Taxi Trade Consultative Group) has been received for an increase in the Taxi Fare.
- 4.2 The proposes table of fares is attached as Appendix A.
- 4.3 It is intended that the new table of fares will come into effect from 1st December 2016.

5. Reasons for Recommendation

- 5.1 The process of setting Hackney carriage Fares is prescribed by the legislation, this recommendation is compliant with the procedure to be followed.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 Following agreement by this committee the public consultation will be carried out in accordance with the requirements contained within Section 65, Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 6.2 A notice will be published in a local paper the week beginning the 17 October 2016, and will be posted on Brentwood Councils Website and on the public notice board at the front of the Town Hall, giving 14 days for representations to be made.
- 6.3 If no representations are received then the proposed table of fares will come into effect on the 1st December 2016.
- 6.4 If representation is received then that representation will be presented to the Licensing Committee for consideration.

7. References to Corporate Plan

- 7.1 None

8. Implications

Financial Implications

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- 8.1 There are no financial Implications for Brentwood Council

Legal Implications

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- 8.2 The Legal Implications are contained within the body of the report.

Other Implications (where significant) – i.e. Health and Safety, Asset Management, Equality and Diversity, Risk Management, Section 17 – Crime & Disorder, Sustainability, ICT.

- 8.3 The table of fares does not allow additional charges to be made for passengers accompanied by guide dogs or wheelchair users. This recognises the relevant duty set out in legislation to make reasonable adjustments for disabled users of Hackney Carriages.

9. Background Papers (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright)

9.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

10. Appendices to this report

Appendix A - Existing Table of Fares December 2014 and Proposed Table of Fares.

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