

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**  
**(Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services)**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 enables the District Council to fix fares within the District for time, distance and other charges in connection with the hire of hackney carriages.
- 1.2 A report was presented to the Panel at their last meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2011 as a result of a request which had been received from a hackney carriage proprietor for the Council to consider an increase in the table of fares. Members decided to defer the report owing to an inaccuracy in the method of calculating the new tariffs which caused a creeping tariff to be introduced to the financial detriment of the public.
- 1.3 The Council has now sought the advice of Mr Brian Roland of the National Private Hire Association who is an expert in the field of calculating taxi tariffs for Local Authorities. His advice was that the problem with the proposed tariffs could not be satisfactorily resolved and as a result he supplied the Council with a new set of appropriate tariffs which resulted in (a) an increase in the initial flag from £2.50 to £2.70 and (b) changes in the unit price travelled from 10p to 20p, with a compensatory reduction in the distance travelled to compensate for the increase in the unit price.
- 1.4 This required the Council to undertake a further consultation with hackney carriage proprietors and was carried out between 15<sup>th</sup> July 2011 and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011. We are now reporting on the results of the consultation and are recommending that the revised tariffs be considered for approval

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 The table of hackney carriage fares was last reviewed in November 2008 and the increase implemented on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2009. A copy of the current table of fares is attached at Appendix A. Since the last increase, the latest indices available for the Consumers Price Index (CPI) shows an increase between January 2009 and May 2011 of 9.9% which included a 2.5% increase in the level of VAT.
- 2.2 The proposed revised fares which were consulted upon can be found at Appendix B. They indicate an overall increase in tariff 1 of 6.86% and tariff 2 of 6.12%, as shown by the calculator, attached as Appendix C. They are considered to be a reasonable increase which will be affordable to the public, yet remain viable for hackney carriage proprietors. The views of hackney carriage proprietors were sought and out of a total of 63 licensed hackney carriages in the District we received responses from proprietors who account for 33 of these licensed vehicles. 4 proprietors who operate 25 vehicles agreed with an increase in the tariffs as proposed whilst 7 proprietors who operate 8 vehicles disagreed. Based on this consultation response, more agreed than disagreed to the proposed increase.
- 2.4 It is necessary to publish a variation of the table of fares in at least one local newspaper and to consider any objections received. If no objections are received, the new fares will come into operation from a specified date. Where an objection is made, and not withdrawn, the Council are required to consider the objection and to consider a further date not later than two months after the first specified date on which the table of fares shall come into operation with or without modification.

2.5 It is suggested that the Licensing and Protection Applications Sub Group be authorised to deal with any objections should they arise.

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 It is therefore

#### **RECOMMENDED**

(a) that the revised table of fares for hackney carriages at Appendix B be approved to take effect from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2011; and

(b) that the Licensing and Protection Applications Sub Group be authorised to consider any objections arising from (a) above and to determine the table of fares accordingly.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

File

F:\Licensing\PH & Taxis\Panel Meetings - Reports Material\LicensingPanelReports

CSENS/JIF/TABLE OF FARES contained in the office of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

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