

DEPARTMENT: ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS

ORIGINATING SECTION : PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE

REPORT TO : LICENSING COMMITTEE

22/11/2022

TITLE : APPLICATION FOR AN INCREASE IN HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

1. PURPOSE

For members to consider a request from the hackney carriage trade for an increase in hackney carriage fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members note the report and put forward recommendations to the Executive Member for Environment and Operations.

3. KEY ISSUES

An application from the Hackney Carriage trade has been received for an increase in hackney carriage fares. Appendix 1 shows the proposed fares and Appendix 2 the existing fares.

Increases in fares are only triggered by requests made from the trade. The last increase was in 2019. The trade have borne the increases in fuel prices and overheads during this period.

If members are minded to approve the increase a public consultation will take place.

4. RATIONALE

A table of hackney carriage fares for all local authorities in the UK is published on the internet. The table can be found in the following link <https://www.phtm.co.uk/newspaper/taxi-fares-league-tables>

Currently Blackburn with Darwen fares rank 243 out of 345 listed authorities. The fare for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 is currently £6.30.

Where authorities have changed fares in 2022, for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 the fares range from £4.90 to £13.20. The proposal for Blackburn with Darwen is £6.77 for the 2 mile journey. This is a 7.5% increase.

The proposal is to also remove the increase of fare to Tariff 2 for Sundays and Bank Holidays (with the exception of Christmas and New year).

Fares for authorities in Lancashire and Greater Manchester have been taken from the published list and are presented in Appendix 3.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The application for increase in hackney carriage fares is a policy matter that should be considered by the Executive Member.

The expertise of the Licensing Committee in this area of work is recognised. The Licensing Committee need to consider the fare increase, and if supported will need to recommend the request being advertised.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications for the council apart from the fee for the advert. There is an opportunity for increased financial rewards to the hackney carriage trade. Users of hackney carriages would incur an increase in the cost of each journey undertaken.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

In accordance with Section 65(2)(a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, when a district council make or vary a table of fares they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district, a notice setting out the table of fares, or the variation thereof, and specifying the period, which shall be not less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which, and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made.

If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within a period specified in the notice, or if all objections are withdrawn, the table of fares or variations shall come into operation on the date specified in the advert.

If an objection is duly made and is not withdrawn, the council will set a further date on which the table of fares will come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Existing staff in the public protection service will undertake the associated work in this request.

9. CONSULTATIONS

The public consultation will commence with the publication of the advert in the Lancashire Telegraph.

10 . CONTACT OFFICER

Denise Andrews – Business Compliance and Licensing Manager