



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Operations
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	25 November 2022

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environment and Operations Departments
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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SUBJECT: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase 2022

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Blackburn Hackney Carriage Association have submitted a request on behalf of the trade for an increase in the fares for hackney carriage journeys.
- 1.2 Increases in fares are only triggered by requests made from the trade and have to be agreed by the Council. The last increase was in 2019.
- 1.3 If the request is granted the date the increase is to take effect will be set and undergo public consultation. If there are no objections to the request the increase will take effect. Any objections will be considered.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

- 2.1 Agrees the increase in fares with effect from 10 December 2022 subject to public consultation.
- 2.2 Instructs the Licensing Team to undertake the statutory 14 day public consultation by placing a notice in the Lancashire Telegraph.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 An application from the Blackburn Hackney Carriage Association has been received for an increase in hackney carriage fares. Appendix 1 shows the proposed fares and Appendix 2 the existing fares.
- 3.2 Increases in fares are only triggered by requests made from the trade. The last increase was in 2019.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

4.1 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>

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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). In effect this removes the premium on fares for Sundays and Bank Holidays.

4.5 There are no risks to the Council from this decision.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The fares set by the Executive Member will become the policy on fares for hackney carriages licensed by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 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

7.1 Section 65 (1) LG (MP) Act 1976 section 65 (1) gives to the Council the legal power to fix the rates or fares and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle.

7.2 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.

7.3 If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within a specified 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.

7.4 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. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 The Licensing committee were consulted on the application for the fare increase at a meeting on 22 November 2022. The committee recommended that the request be granted.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Denise Andrews
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DATE:	14 November 2022
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	None
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