



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Environment & Operations
LEAD OFFICERS:	Strategic Director of Environment & Operations
DATE:	24 November 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Environment & Operations
WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);

SUBJECT: Hackney Carriage Fare Increase

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. The last increase was in 2022.
- 1.2 Increases in fares are only triggered by requests made from the trade and have to be agreed by the Executive member.
- 1.3 If the request is granted a public consultation will take place. 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 18 December 2023 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 current fares and Appendix 2 the proposed fares.
- 3.2 Increases in fares are only triggered by requests made from the trade. The last increase was in 2022.

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 180 out of 344 listed authorities. The fare for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 is currently £6.77.

4.3 Where other authorities have changed fares in 2023, for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 the fares range from £6.00 to £14.20.

4.4 The proposal for Blackburn with Darwen is to keep the current fare for shorter journeys. However where journeys are longer than 672 meters (735 yards) to reduce the number of additional meters travelled for 10p. The impact of the change will only be seen in longer journeys – approximately 10 miles and above.

4.4 The proposal is to also re-instate a Tariff 2 fare (higher charge) for Sundays and Bank Holidays. This was removed in 2022. The valet fee if a vehicle is fouled by a customer to also be increased from £20 to £50. This will more realistically cover the costs of cleaning and loss of work time whilst a vehicle is being cleaned.

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 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.

7.2 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.

7.3 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

8.1 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 statutory public consultation will take place if the decision is made to accept the application for the fare increase.

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:	7 November 2023
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	None
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