
HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor G Prosser
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Simon Wilkes – Head of Worcestershire Regulatory Services
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Non-Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by hackney carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.

On 16th July 2018 the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed table of fares. Members are now asked to consider an objection received to the proposed table of fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Licensing Committee considers the objection received to the proposed table of fares and RESOLVE whether to bring into force the revised table of fares shown at Appendix 3 with effect from 16th November 2018.

3. KEY ISSUES

Financial Implications

- 3.1 The costs of advertising the proposed variations to the table of fares for hackney carriages was met from existing budgets held by Worcestershire Regulatory Services.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 Section 65 (1) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that a district council may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a “table of fares”) made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- 3.3 Section 65(2) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 goes on to state:
- a) 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 not be 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.
 - b) A copy of the notice referred to in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall for the period of fourteen days from the date of the first publication thereof be deposited at the offices of the council which published the notice, and shall at all reasonable hours be open to public inspection without payment.
- 3.4 If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice referred to in section 65 (2), or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table of fares or variation shall come into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever date is the later.
- 3.5 If objections are made and are not withdrawn, the district council must set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.7 The Council has responsibility under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, for setting the maximum fares that can be charged by hackney carriage vehicles licensed to operate within the district.
- 3.8 Hackney Carriage ("Taxi") fares are made up of an initial hiring charge and a "mileage" rate, both of which are expressed in terms of distance and / or time per unit cost. This is because when a hired taxi is stationary or moving slowly in traffic the meter continues charging, but by time, instead of distance.
- 3.9 The table of fares applies only to hackney carriage vehicles. Private hire operators are free to agree their hiring charges in advance with their customers, normally at the time of booking the journey.

- 3.10 On 16th July 2018, the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed table of fares for hackney carriages. The proposed table of fares approved for advertisement is shown at **Appendix 1**. The advertisement was placed in a local newspaper on 22nd August 2018 and gave until 19th September 2018 for objections to the proposed tariff to be made.
- 3.11 An objection to the proposed table of fares has been received from a member of the public. The individual concerned has objected on the basis that they believe the table of fares should show only metric units. A copy of the objection received can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.12 Whilst there are a very small number of local authorities that do display their table of fares only in metric units, the vast majority use yards and miles as these imperial units are common place on road signs, speedometers and odometers in vehicles used on UK roads.
- 3.13 The member of the public makes reference to their interpretation of regulations that dictate the units of measurement to be used in the UK for various purposes, which they believe prohibits the use of anything but metric units on a table of fares.
- 3.14 Officers believe their interpretation of the regulations is incorrect and that the regulations concerned allow any measurement of distance to be shown in miles, yards, feet or inches. Otherwise use of miles as a unit of measurement on vehicle odometers, speedometers and in road maps produced and sold in the UK would be unlawful.
- 3.15 Officers do however feel there is no reason why the metric equivalent of the distances shown on the table of fares could not be shown alongside the imperial units. Therefore these have been included on the table of fares shown at **Appendix 3**.
- 3.16 Members are now asked to consider the objection received to the proposed table of fares and resolve whether to bring the revised table of fares at **Appendix 3** into force on 16th November 2018.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Table of Fares Advertised

Appendix 2 – Objection Received

Appendix 3 – Revised Table of Fares (including metric units)

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