

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

**LICENSING
COMMITTEE**

28th April 2022

**HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES – REQUEST FOR VARIATION
CONSIDERATION OF OBJECTION RECEIVED**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor N Nazir
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
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 21st March 2022 the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares. Members are now asked to consider an objection received in respect of the proposed varied table of fares.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Licensing Committee considers the objection received to the proposed table of fares and RESOLVE to bring into force the varied table of fares shown at Appendix 1 (with or without modifications) with effect from 7th May 2022.

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

- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 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.
- 3.8 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.
- 3.9 On 21st March 2022, the Licensing Committee approved the advertisement of a proposed variation to the existing table of fares for hackney carriages. The proposed varied table of fares approved for advertisement is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 3.10 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 Council’s table of fares should only display metric units (metres and kilometres).
- 3.11 The individual concerned raises no objection in respect of the variations being proposed to the maximum cost of journeys undertaken in hackney carriages, only to the table of fares including reference to imperial units of measurement (yards and miles). A copy of the objection received can be seen at **Appendix 2**.
- 3.12 The proposed varied table of fares shows distances expressed in both metric (metres) and imperial units of measurement (yards and miles). This is also true of the current table of fares that was approved for implementation by the Licensing Committee in November 2018.
- 3.13 Officers believe that the current format of the table of fares is compliant with current legislation and is clear and understandable for passengers and licence holders. It is also believed to be consistent with the vast majority of fare tables that are published by other local authorities across England and Wales.

- 3.14 Members are asked to consider the objection received to the proposed table of fares and resolve to bring the revised table of fares at **Appendix 1** into force (with or without modifications) on 7th May 2022.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 4.1 None

5. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Proposed Varied Table of Fares

Appendix 2 – Objection received

AUTHOR OF REPORT

Name: Dave Etheridge – Principal Officer (Licensing)
Worcestershire Regulatory Services

E Mail: dave.etheridge@worcsregservices.gov.uk

Tel: (01905) 822799