

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

MONDAY 1 JUNE 2015

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES INCREASE

Report of the Head of Legal & Democratic Services

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that

- (1) The objection to the proposed tariff be considered;
 - (2) The proposed table of fares be approved including the proposed fare increase as advertised, or modified; and
 - (3) The new Hackney Carriage fare is implemented with effect from 3 August 2015.
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Summary

This report gives details of a fare increase sought for hackney carriages by the trade

Statutory Powers

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

Introduction

1. The Council has received a request from the Hackney Carriage members of the Licensed Transport Forum for the Council to approve an increase in fares for hackney carriages. Details of the existing fares are detailed in Appendix 1, the proposed fares are detailed in Appendix 2 and the National Averages are shown in Appendix 3.
2. The proposed fare increase has been advertised in a local newspaper giving a minimum of 28 days for objections to be received, Appendix 5. One objection was received at the Administration Committee meeting held on Monday 16 February 2015, Appendix 6 and following the publication the Notice the same objection was submitted and has to date not been withdrawn.
3. As there was an objection the Council must set a further date within 2 months of the original date (1 April 2015) on which the new fares will come into force

following further consideration by Councillors that date being Monday 1 June 2015.

The proposed fare increase

4. Members will recall that a Hackney Carriage tariff is the maximum that can be charged and that drivers are able to quote fees below what is stated on the meter.
5. The last increase in fares took place in September 2011.
6. Eastleigh is currently 94 out of 342 Councils in the table of fares recorded in the National league for January 2015, as published in the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly (Appendix 4).
7. The primary reason for the trade's request for the increase is that even with the current reduction in fuel cost all other costs have increased. The cost of servicing and replacement of parts for the vehicles, insurance premiums and for those drivers working from the local railway stations the cost of obtaining SW Trains permits has increased every year by 4% to a current figure of: Both stations permits £622, Southampton (Airport) Parkway permit £462 and Eastleigh Town permit £342.
8. As set out in paragraph 2 there are regulations about advertising proposed fare increase.

Objections

9. There has been one objection received following the advertisement of the proposed fare increase. One member of the Trade objected to the increase citing that in his opinion the figures were not accurate; new vehicles were fuel efficient; fuel had come down; the Trade had not been consulted by the Forum reps; and the public did not have enough disposable cash which could impact on the Trade if the fares increased. This objection is shown in Appendix 6

Financial Implications

10. Cost of £225.06p has been incurred in the public advertising of the proposed fare increases in The Hampshire Independent Newspaper, (see Appendix 4), and printing cost of the new fare tariff charts for each hackney carriage (103) of £721, these costs will be met from existing budgets. The reason that the Council has to print the new tariff charts is that it is a legal requirement also Hackney Carriages must display them in the vehicles for the customers to be able to read. The tariff charts can be viewed on the Council web site and in the drivers' handbook.

Risk Assessment

11. There are no financial or other risk implications arising from this report.

Equality and Diversity Implications

- 12 The Equality Act is not relevant to the decision in this report as the decision does not relate to elimination discrimination, advancing equality or opportunity or fostering good relations between different people. An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out.

Conclusion

- 13 It is recommended that the Administration Committee agrees to the fare increase, with a completion date of 29 June 2015, which is in line with the meter policy as adopted on 8 February 2011 by the Administration Committee. This will allow time for the meter installers to obtain the new chips for the meters from the meter manufacturer and install them into the vehicles.

RICHARD WARD

Head of Legal & Democratic Services

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Appendices Attached: 6

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 100D

The following is a list of documents which disclose facts or matters on which this report or an important part of it is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. This list does not include any published works or documents which would disclose exempt or confidential information:

Taxi and Private Hire monthly – January 2015 issue.

2015 Proposed fare increase – Votes and analysis (from Trade)