



EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT COVER SHEET

Title of Report:	Determination of a Request to Change the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares	To be marked with an 'X' by Democratic Services after report has been presented
Meeting of:	Corporate Management Team 04.10.22	
	Licensing Committee 2022	
	Leader and Deputy Leaders [DATE]	
	Leader's / Leader of the Opposition's Advisory Group / Independent Alliance Advisory Group [DATE]	
	Cabinet [DATE] / Council [DATE]	
	Scrutiny Audit and Value for Money Council Services Committee [DATE] / Scrutiny Community Regeneration, Environment and Health and Well Being Committee [DATE]	



Is this an Executive Decision:	YES	Is this a Key Decision:	NO
Is this in the Forward Plan:	NO	Is the Report Confidential:	NO
If so, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972:	[]		

Essential Signatories:

ALL REPORTS MUST BE IN THE NAME OF A HEAD OF SERVICE

Monitoring Officer: **John Teasdale**

Date Signature

Chief Finance Officer: **Sal Khan**

Date Signature

EAST STAFFORDSHIRE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing Committee

Date: TBA

REPORT TITLE: Determination of a Request to Change the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

PORTFOLIO: Regulatory Services

HEAD OF SERVICE: Mark Rizk

CONTACT OFFICER: Margaret Woolley

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. This report is to consider a request from a Hackney Carriage proprietor for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares currently in place in the Borough Of East Staffordshire.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. A request has been received from a Hackney Carriage proprietor operating in the Borough of East Staffordshire for a change to the current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.
- 2.2. This report sets out the nature of the request; how the proposed changes compare to other local authority areas.
- 2.3. A consultation exercise has been undertaken prior to presentation to the Licensing Committee. Following consideration by the Licensing Committee a recommendation to Cabinet will be required to conclude the determination of the matter.

3. Background

- 3.1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides for the Council to fix fares within the Borough for time and distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle, to be paid in respect of hire of Hackney Carriages by means of a Table of Fares.
- 3.2. When setting Hackney Carriage Fares there is no requirement under the Act to take into account external factors, and there is no limit on the amount of increase or variation. The process of setting a fare increase is complex and a balance needs to be struck between the legitimate aims of the taxi trade to maintain profitability in the face of increasing costs, while protecting the public from excessive fares.
- 3.3. The setting of Fares and other associated charges is an executive function and must be determined by Cabinet. Licensing Committee will be asked to consider the request and make a recommendation to Cabinet to assist in its determination of the matter.
- 3.4. Any agreed change to the Table of Fares must be advertised and displayed publicly for a period of 14 days before the changes take effect.
- 3.5. If there are no objections, within the period prescribed for making objections, the changes would come into effect.
- 3.6. If objections are received the matter would need to be referred back to Cabinet or the Deputy Leader for Community and Regulatory Services to consider and, where appropriate, resolve such objections and agree a commencement date.

4. Contribution to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1. Value for money council.

5. Report

- 5.1. The current Table of Fares which has been in place since 2021 is shown at **Appendix 1**.
- 5.2. It is a condition of a licence that every Hackney Carriage within East Staffordshire is fitted with a taxi meter and that the taxi meter should be used for all journeys within the Borough.
- 5.3. The Council does not set the tariff to be applied through the taxi meter, but does consider and approve, subject to public consultation and requests from the Hackney Carriage trade.
- 5.4. A request has been made by a Hackney Carriage proprietor operating in the Borough and a copy of the request including the proposed tariff is attached as **Appendix 2**. The Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Policy states that “the

council shall review the prescribed tariff for Hackney Carriage vehicles when requested to do so by the trade”.

- 5.5. The main changes contained in the proposal are:
- 5.6. Mileage: For the first 146.9 (160.7 yards) or part thereof, (Previously For the first 172.08 metres (189 yards) or part thereof).
- 5.7. Mileage: For each subsequent 132.8 metres (145.4 yards) or part thereof, (Previously For each subsequent 156.24 metres (171 yards) or part thereof).
- 5.8. It is worth noting that the Table of Fares for England (**Appendix 3**) published by the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine shows that based on a two mile fare, The Tariff 1 charge ranged from **£4.40 (Lowest)** to **£13.40 Highest** with the national average **£6.55**. Based on the current tariff in East Staffordshire the comparable fare would be **£5.90**. This places East Staffordshire **246** out of **355** on the table of fares.
- 5.9. The effect of the requested change would be an increase in fare to **£6.62**, (based on a 2 mile journey) and would move East Staffordshire into **141** place on the table.
- 5.10. For comparison the following three local authorities are currently reviewing their Tariff. Tamworth Borough Council’s fare would see a 2 mile journey at £7.12, Wolverhampton £6.80 and Stafford Borough Council £6.50.
- 5.11. The Councils licensing database currently has **116** Hackney Carriage Vehicles licensed, **17** Hackney Carriage Drivers and **421** Combined Drivers.
- 5.12. The following table compares “fares by distance” between the current and proposed tariffs:

Journey by Distance	Cost of current Tariff 2021	Cost of proposed Tariff 2022
1 st Mile	£3.84	£4.20
5 Miles	£12.08	£13.89
10 Miles	£22.38	£26.01
15 Miles	£32.68	£38.13
20 Miles	£42.98	£50.25

5.13. Consultation:

- 5.14. Following a 2 week consultation exercise from 22 August 2022 to 5 September 2022 no responses were received.

6. Financial Considerations

This section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit: Anya Murray

6.1. There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

Revenue	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	0	0	0

Capital	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	0	0	0

6.2. Any costs associated with administering and advertising a change to the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares is covered as an integral part of the licensing fee.

6.3. The cost of re-calibrating individual meters fitted to Hackneys Carriages is met by individual proprietors.

7. Risk Assessment and Management

7.1. The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

7.2. **Positive** (Opportunities/Benefits):

7.2.1. There has been no increase to the Table of Fares since 2021; it is therefore an opportune time to consider the benefits of a review.

7.3. **Negative** (Threats):

7.3.1. Any increase in fares in the current economic climate may be viewed negatively by residents and travellers within the Borough.

7.4. The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

8. Legal Considerations

*This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team:
Glen McCusker*

8.1. There are no significant legal issues arising from this Report.

8.2. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides for local authorities to set fares for Hackney Carriages within their area.

8.3. Once Cabinet has determined the request for a change to the current Table of Fares the Council must advertise and publicly display the revised Table of Fares and allow for objections to be received and determined.

Equalities and Health

- 8.4. **Equality impacts:** The subject of this Report is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality and health impact assessment is not required.
- 8.5. **Health impacts:** An equality and health impact assessment is not required.

9. Human Rights

- 9.1. There are no Human Rights issues arising from this Report.

10. Sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures)

- 10.1. Does the proposal result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures) N/A

11. Recommendation(s)

- 11.1. For Licensing Committee to consider the request for a change to the Table of Fares and make a recommendation to Cabinet whether:
 - 11.1.1. To agree the change proposed, or
 - 11.1.2. To agree the change with variation(s) or
 - 11.1.3. To reject the proposed change.

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

13. Appendices

- 13.1. Appendix 1: Current Table of Fares
- 13.2. Appendix 2: Letter received from Hackney Carriage Proprietor including proposed tariff
- 13.3. Appendix 3: Private Hire and Taxi Monthly Magazine - Taxi Fares League Table September 2022

<https://content.yudu.com/web/43sy4/0A43sy5/PHTMSEPTEMBER2022/html/index.html?page=78&origin=reader>