

LICENSING COMMITTEE

14th JANUARY 2014

REPORT OF HEAD OF REGULATORY SERVICES

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF INCREASE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee a proposal from Melton Mowbray Taxi Drivers Association for an increase in the hackney carriage tariff charges.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **To review the proposal of the Melton Mowbray Taxi Drivers Association.**

2.2 **That consultation be carried out on the proposed tariff increase and the matter then be reported to the Rural Economic and Environmental Affairs Committee for resolution.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

3.1 A request has been received from Melton Mowbray Taxi Drivers Association (MMTDA).

3.2 A Local Authority has the power to set fares for Hackney Carriages under the provisions of s65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

3.3 There is a prescribed process that should be followed by a Local Authority when considering a tariff increase. This is attached as appendix 1.

3.6 The proposal that has been submitted seeks to reflect the increase in cost of providing a taxi service since the last increase in 2012, taking into consideration running cost increases, e.g. fuel, insurance, minimum wage increases etc. The proposed tariff is attached as appendix 2.

3.7 The acting chair of the MMTDA has stated that there are currently 36 members of the association, which is 43% of the number of drivers that are currently licensed by the Council (83). A number of the drivers that are licensed by the Council are solely private hire drivers and would not be impacted by any the changes in the tariff. Accordingly; approximately half of all hackney carriage drivers are stated to have joined the Association and have been stated to have voted in favour of the proposed increase in tariff.

3.8 The proposed increase in tariff is between 10.7% and 14.3% depending on the rate and they also propose a further 'rate 5' for vehicles carrying 5 or more passengers on a public holiday for consideration at a later date. The existing table of fares is attached as appendix 3.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 If the tariff increase is agreed as per the recommendation there would be no changes to the existing taxi policy, nor any corporate implications.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 An increase in the taxi tariff would not impose no additional costs nor generate any income for the Council.

5.2 Depending on the resolution of the Committee, there could be a cost to the Council in terms of officer time in the carrying out any re-consultation, development and implementing any change and financially for the advertising of proposed tariff in the newspaper. The exact quantity of this cost has not yet been established but is estimated to be in the region of £1500. This can be met from existing budgets.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 Upon the adoption of a new taxi tariff the existing tariff within the Borough shall cease to have any effect and all drivers will be bound to the new tariff.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 There are no community safety issues to be considered with a taxi tariff increase.

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 There are no equalities issues to be considered.

9.0 RISKS

Very High A						
High B	2.				Risk No.	Description
Significant C					1.	Negative public reaction to the increase in fares
Low D	1.				2.	Opposition from some drivers resulting in a protracted process and disputes played out in public
Very Low E		3.			3.	Reduced competitiveness for Melton taxis
Almost Impossible F						
	IV Negligible	III Marginal	II Critical	I Catastrophic		
	Impact					

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 There are no implications for Climate Change.

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 Consultation would be carried out as part of the process of adopting any tariff increase.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All.

Contact Officer: Andrew Dudley, Lead Enforcement Officer

Date: 19th December 2013

Appendices :
1 - Hackney Carriage Tariff Setting Process
2 - Proposed MMTDA Table of Fares
3 - Existing Table of Fares

Reference : Q : Committee