



RECORD OF DELEGATED DECISION (OFFICER)

1. Decision Reference No.	CEX522
2. Name/Title of Officer	Lydia Rusling Director for Place and Prosperity
3. Email address of Officer	Lrusling@melton.gov.uk
4. Title / Subject Matter:	Hackney Carriage Fare Review
5. Type of Decision:	Public
6. Key Decision?	No
7. Decision Taken:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow the change in fare structure as proposed and advertised. 2. The new fare structure will come into place on 28 April 2025. 	
8. Reasons for Decision:	
<p>On 4 February 2025 the Licensing Committee agreed that a 14 day consultation on the proposed increase in hackney carriage fares would take place (Appendix 1 – Committee report). The report recommended delegation be given to the Director for Place and Prosperity to undertake the statutory consultation and consider any objections received, and in consultation with the Chair, to approve the final table of fares.</p> <p>Melton hackney carriage fares have not been increased for 4 years (since 2021), so the increase will reflect changes in cost of living. The nighttime rate will also change from 11pm-7am, to 7pm-7am to encourage more drivers to work in the evening and attempt to boost the nighttime economy (Appendix 2 – comparing old and proposed fares).</p> <p>The consultation period for the hackney carriage fare review ran from midnight on 13th February until midnight on 26th February 2025. During this time, 4 comments were received, all from Melton hackney carriage drivers (Appendix 3-6).</p> <p>In summary, 2 oppose it (one of whom originally signed to support the proposal) and 2 support it.</p> <p><u>Opposition</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>“If you increase the price it will be dearer than Uber what are you trying to do we all work</i> 	

for you or Uber increase no”

2. Paraphrased: *They agree with changing the timings so evening rate starts at 7pm instead of 11pm. They disagree with the tariffs, so their prices would remain cheaper than UBER. They also object to there being no rate for 5 or more passengers on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve – This person has signed initially to say they supported the proposed figure and timings when the review was initiated*

Support

1. *“I will support the proposal”*
2. *“not sure how customers will react but it feels a long time since we had a rise”*

The initial proposal came in with 13 supporting signatures.

If no objections were received the proposed table was due to come into force on 28 April 2025. As there are so few comments to consider, this time scale is still reasonable to bring in the table of fares (**Appendix 7**), as proposed by the trade with no amendments required.

The drivers should be given a grace period of 2 weeks from 28 April 2025 – 11 May 2025 to provide an updated calibration certificate to the licensing team, demonstrating they have updated their meter to reflect the changes in tariff.

9. Authority / Legal Power:

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, states that if any objections are received and not withdrawn, the Council must set a date, not later than 2 months after the date for making objections, on which the table of fares will come into force with or without modification as decided by the Council, after considering the objections.

The Council’s Constitution at Chapter 2 – Licensing Committee Functions & Procedure Rules, paragraph 1.9 delegates the fixing of Hackney Carriage vehicle fare scales to the Director for Growth and Regeneration.

It was agreed at committee on 4 February 2025, that the Director for Growth and Prosperity (previously titled Director for Growth and Regeneration) along with the Chair of the Licensing Committee, is delegated authority to consider any objections received and approve the final table of fares.

10. Background Papers attached?	Yes – original committee report (including appendices) & redacted objections from hackney carriage drivers to the proposed increase.
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11. Alternative options available / rejected:

1. Leave the current table of fares in force – risk more drivers leaving the trade due to cost of living pressures not reflecting in their wages.
2. Not change the times when nighttime rate applies – risk making evening work less attractive to the trade and adversely affecting the nighttime economy.

12. Implications:

Legal	<p>The Legal powers which apply in relation to setting hackney carriage fares are as set out in paragraph 9 above. The Council must give full and proper consideration to any objections that were received within the consultation period when determining the final table of fares and ensure that the date set for the fares to come into effect is within two months of the last date by which objections must be made.</p> <p>[Legal Approval – 12 March 2025]</p>
Finance	<p>[Finance Approval - Interim Assistant Director for Resources - 12 March 2025]</p>
HR	-

13. APPROVAL/SIGN OFF (Do not complete until all implications signed off at Section 12)

Signature of Decision Maker with authority to sign :	<p>Email approval received Lydia Rusling Director for Place and Prosperity</p>
Consultation with:	<p>Email notification received Cllr Steve Carter Chair of Taxi & General Licensing Committee</p>
Date:	13 March 2025