



Committee and Date  
 Strategic Licensing Committee  
 12<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Item  
**6**  
Public

## HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

**Responsible Officer** Mandy Beever

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### 1. Summary

1.1 Following requests made to officers to increase Tariff 1 and Tariff 2 on the current tables of fares the following is proposed:

	Current Charge	Proposed Increase
<b>Tariff 1</b> <b>(From 07.00 hrs to 23.00 hrs Mon - Sat)</b> Flag & First Mile (1,760 yards (1,609 meters)) For each 176 yards or uncompleted part thereof (equivalent to £1.50 per mile) Waiting time (equivalent to £18 per hour)	£3.30 £0.15 £0.15 per 30 sec	£4.00 £0.15 £0.15 per 30 sec
<b>Tariff 2</b> <b>(23.00 to 07.00 hrs including all day Sunday and Bank Holidays with the exception of those listed below)</b> Flag & First Mile (1,760 yards (1,609 meters)) For each 176 yards or uncompleted part thereof (equivalent to £2.50 per mile) Waiting time (equivalent to £30 per hour)	£4.95 £0.25 £0.25 per 30 sec	£6.00 £0.25 £0.25 per 30 sec

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Strategic Licensing Committee (the Committee) approves the tables of fares for hackney carriages as set out in Appendix A of this report for each of its five zones to come into effect on the 8 April 2013 and that consultation in accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 be undertaken and
- i) where no representations are made, the revised fare card be adopted in all existing five zones on the stated date (8 April 2013);

- ii) where representations are made in relation to any zone then these are reported back to the Committee for consideration at a further meeting to be arranged for a date in April 2013 before any of the increases are implemented.

## **REPORT**

### **3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal**

- 3.1 Consultation was undertaken regarding the proposed increases at the taxi forums which were held across the County, in each of the zones, in November 2012; 23 November in Oswestry, 27 November in Shrewsbury, 29 November in Ludlow, 30 November in Wem and 3 December 2012 in Bridgnorth.
- 3.2 Since the forums, the Team Manager for Operational Community Safety has received further telephone calls from hackney carriage proprietors in the Shrewsbury area (zone 4) supporting the proposed increase.
- 3.3 The Committee must ensure that in setting the new fare cards that the principal purpose of protecting the public is retained.

### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The increases identified in the tables above relate to the charges that hackney carriages make to their customers and not to charges that the Council makes.
- 4.2 There will be a cost to the Council. The Council must produce the new fare cards for each zone and distribute them for display in all hackney carriage vehicles. The costs associated with producing the new cards and sending them to the trade will be approximately £200 plus the cost to advertise the proposed fares in a local paper in each of the five zones.

### **5. Background**

- 5.1 Shropshire Council currently operates five zones for the purpose of licensing hackney carriages; these are based on the previous Borough and District Council Boundaries and are namely Zone 1- Bridgnorth; Zone 2 – North Shropshire; Zone 3 - Oswestry; Zone 4 – Shrewsbury & Atcham and Zone 5 – Ludlow. The fares for each zone have been set at the same level.
- 5.2 The fare cards state the maximum fare that can be charged for each zone. The proprietor may agree a lower fare with the passenger. A meter may also be set at a level lower than the Council's agreed fares on condition that the proprietor displays two fare cards; these being the Council's agreed fare card and one to show the lower fare to which the meter has been set.

### **6. Additional Information**

- 6.1 Prior to new fares coming into force, there is a requirement for the table of fares to be advertised in each zone in a local paper with a minimum 14 day consultation

period. If no representations are received, the fares would be introduced on the date stated; in this case the 8 April 2013. If representations are made, the council must set a date, no later than two months after the proposed original implementation date, for the fares to come into effect, with or without changes.

**List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)**

- Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policies and Associated Documents adopted on 1 October 2011
- Current Tables of Fares
- Requests for Fare Increase
- Taxi Forum Minutes for 23 November 2012, 27 November 2012, 29 November 2012, 30 November 2012 and 3 December 2012

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Councillor Steve Charmley

**Local Member**

N/A

**Appendices**

Appendix A – Proposed Table of Fares (applicable to all five zones)