



Committee and Date

Strategic Licensing Committee

24th April 2013

Item

6

Public

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

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1. Summary

- 1.1 The Strategic Licensing Committee (the Committee), at their meeting on 12th March 2013 agreed to advertise tables of fares to be introduced in hackney carriage zones 1,2,3,4 and 5.
- 1.2 The table of fares were advertised in the Shropshire Star on 19th March 2013, giving a 17 day period for representations to be made.
- 1.3 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, states that if objections are received and not withdrawn, the Council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the tables of fares shall come into force. The Council can decide to make modifications to the advertised tables of fares after consideration of objections.
- 1.4 Objections have been received to the tables of fares as advertised and therefore this matter is referred back to the Committee to determine under the delegated powers as set out in the Council Constitution.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Strategic Licensing Committee introduces the tables of fares for hackney carriages as set out in:-
 - 2.1.1 Appendix A of this report for Shropshire Council Zone 1, 2, 4 and 5; and
 - 2.1.2 Appendix B Option 2 for Shropshire Council Zone 3 – (Information taken directly from the representation received see Appendix D document 7 of 8.)
- 2.2 The tables of fares to come into effect at noon on the 15th May 2013.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 3.1 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 £500.

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.
- 5.3 The Committee, at their meeting on 12th March 2013 agreed to advertise tables of fares to be introduced in hackney carriage zones 1,2,3,4 and 5. If no objections were received within the 17 day representation period provided in the notice in the local press, the tables of fares would come into force on the 8th April 2013. The statutory notice was advertised in the Shropshire Star on 19th March 2013.
- 5.4 Where objections are received and not withdrawn, the Council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the tables of fares shall come into force. The Council can decide to make modifications to the advertised tables of fares after consideration of objections.

6. Consultation

- 6.1 There were eight representations (relevant to the fare card) received (with two being from the same person and largely the same) summarized as follows:-

- Proposed fare card (Option 1 in Appendix B – Information taken directly from the representation received see Appendix D, document 1 of 8.) proposed for Zone 4, by upwards of 48 drivers from Zone 4.
- Representation from three Zone 4 proprietors and Councillor J Tandy (advising the majority of taxi drivers he had spoken to) agreeing the proposed fare card at Appendix A.
- Proposed fare card (Option 2 in Appendix B - Information taken directly from the representation received see Appendix D document 7 of 8.) for Zone 3 put forward by one Zone 3 proprietor on behalf of Zone 3 proprietors.
- Comments by another Zone 3 proprietor – proposed tariffs at Tariff 1 and 2 fine (although in their opinion too high). Tariff 3 should be double that proposed for Tariff 1. Xmas Eve and New Year’s Eve are normal days and should not be charged any differently. Bank Holiday tariffs should carry on through the night to 6 or 7am as other local authorities do. Tariff 4 should have more options. There should be a Tariff 5 for vehicle carrying 5 or more passengers for bank holidays etc.

6.2 Website Consultation Summary of the representations received is attached at Appendix C.

6.3 Copies of the representations received are attached at Appendix D.

7. Conclusion

7.1 A range of views were submitted during consultation. There were no representations from proprietors in Zone 1, 2 and 5 and little consensus in the representations for Zone 4, so the recommendation is for the table of fares for each of those four zones to remain as originally advertised (at Appendix A).

7.2 There was overall consensus from the proprietors in Zone 3 so a different table of fares as detailed at Appendix B Option 2 is recommended for consideration in Zone 3.

<p>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policies and Associated Documents adopted on 1 October 2011
<p>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</p> <p>Councillor Steve Charmley</p>
<p>Local Member</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Appendices</p> <p>Appendix A – Proposed Tables of Fares (applicable to all five zones)</p>

Appendix B – Alternative proposals received

Appendix C – Website Consultation Summary of the representations received.

Appendix D - Representations received.