



Committee and Date

Strategic Licensing Committee

7 October 2020 10.00am

Item

Public

**REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE CARD**

**Responsible Officer** Mandy Beever, Transactional and Licensing Manager  
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**1. Summary**

1. On the 19 September 2019 the Council resolved that the five existing Hackney Carriage Zones, which are defined by reference to the five district and borough council areas that existed prior to the creation of Shropshire Council, be removed, and that all provisions of the hackney carriage licensing regime be applied across the whole of the administrative area of Shropshire Council with effect from 1 April 2021.
2. This report concerns the final stage of the process to revise the existing Tables of Fares for the five separate zones and the proposal to undertake a formal consultation on a single Table of Fares to be applied to the whole of the administrative area of Shropshire Council to come into effect from 1 April 2021.

**2. Recommendations**

1. That the Strategic Licensing Committee note the contents of the report and the legal requirement to consult on this process.

**REPORT**

**3. Financial Implications**

1. Any financial implications will be offset against future fee calculations.

#### **4. Background**

1. On 1 April 2021, Shropshire Council will remove the five existing Hackney Carriage Zones and they will be replaced by one single zone covering the whole administrative area of Shropshire Council.
2. The existing Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares (Appendix A) needs to be revised to reflect this change.
3. Notification of an informal consultation inviting submissions on the revised Tables of Fares was sent out by email to the trade on 28 July 2020 and closed on 21 August 2020. Two submissions were received one from a representative of Zone 4 see Appendix B and the other from a representative in Zone 2 see Appendix C. The submissions proposed a increase to the minimum fare (Tariff 1, Flag & First Mile) and to remove the Sunday day time Tariff (Tariff 2 Sunday only).
4. Due to the limited number of responses received during the informal consultation it is not proposed to make any amendments to the current Tables of Fares prior to the formal consultation commencing. The amounts as set out in the Tables of Fares at Appendix A will form the basis of the formal consultation.
5. It is important to note that the fare card states the maximum fare that can be charged. The proprietor can agree a lower fare with the passenger. A meter can 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. Following the formal consultation, and prior to new fares coming into force, there is a requirement for the table of fares to be advertised in the local paper with a minimum 14 day consultation period. If no representations are received, the fares would be introduced on the date stated, which in this case is 1 April 2021. If representations are made, the council must set a date, no later than two months after the proposed implementation date, for the fares to come into effect, with or without changes.

#### **5. Conclusions**

1. A formal consultation on the Table of Fares will begin in the final quarter of this financial year to reflect the change to one Hackney Carriage zone for the whole administrative area of Shropshire Council. The revised Table of Fares will come into effect on 1 April 2021.

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

Proposed Removal of the Existing Five Hackney Carriage Zones Council Report dated 19 September 2019 <https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/documents/s23017/Proposed%20Removal%20HC%20Zones%20-%20Council%20Report%20-%20FINAL.pdf>

Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy 2019 to 2023  
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/12328/hcph-licensing-policy-2019-2023.pdf>

Current Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares. Applicable to: Zone 1 – Bridgnorth; Zone 2 – North Shropshire; Zone 3 – Oswestry; Zone 4 – Shrewsbury and Atcham; Zone 5 – Ludlow <https://shropshire.gov.uk/media/1434/hackney-carriage-fare-card.pdf>

**Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)**

Councillor Gwilym Butler Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place Planning and Regulatory Services

**Local Member**

Cover all areas of Shropshire

**Appendices**

A - Current Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares

B – Informal Consultation Response Zone 4

C – Informal Consultation Response Zone 2