



<u>Committee and Date</u>
Cabinet
8 March 2021

<u>Item</u>
Public

REQUEST FOR CHANGE TO HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE CARD

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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 replace them with 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 Cabinet approves, with any necessary modifications, the proposed Table of Fares for the whole administrative area of Shropshire Council, as set out in **Appendix A**, and agrees that it will come into effect from 1 April 2021.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

1. A risk assessment and opportunities appraisal has not been undertaken as a result of the recommendation in this report. The process for the removal of the five Zones has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. The risk assessment and opportunities appraisal has been addressed through extensive

consultations and revisions of the policy. For full sight of the considerations please refer to the background papers section of this report.

4. Financial Implications

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

5. Climate Change Appraisal

1. There is no direct climate change impact as a result of the recommendations in this report. However, this has been addressed through extensive consultations and revisions of the policy, for full sight of the considerations please refer to the background papers section of this report.

2. 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 Strategic Licensing Committee has overseen each stage of this process and have made their decisions based on the evidence presented during the committee process.
3. The existing Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares (**Appendix B**) needs to be revised to reflect this change.
4. Notification of a formal consultation inviting submissions on the revision of the Tables of Fares was sent out by email to the trade on 19 January 2021 and closed on 5 February 2021. Three submissions were received two from Zone four (**Appendix C and D**) and one from Zone two (**Appendix E**). The submissions proposed an increase to the minimum fare (Tariff 1, Flag & First Mile)
5. Tariff 1, Flag & First Mile is currently set at £4.00, the submissions proposed that this fee be increased to £4.80, £4.95 and £5.00. The revised Table of Fares at **Appendix A** recommends that an increase to £4.90 be introduced as this is the midway point of the fee increases requested during the consultation.
6. Notification of an informal consultation was previously done inviting submissions on the revised Tables of Fares an email was sent out to the trade inviting submissions between the 28 July 2020 and 21 August 2020. The

submissions proposed an increase to the minimum fare (Tariff 1, Flag & First Mile) and to remove the Sunday day time Tariff (Tariff 2 Sunday only). Due to the limited number of responses received during the informal consultation it was not proposed to make any amendments to the Tables of Fares prior to the formal consultation commencing.

7. 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.
8. 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 (**Appendix F**). 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.

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>

Request for Change to Hackney Carriage Fare Card Report dated 7 October 2020
<https://shropshire.gov.uk/committee-services/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=166&MId=4107&Ver=4>

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

Appendix A – Revised Hackney Carriage Table of Fares for the whole administrative area of Shropshire Council

Appendix B – Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares for Zones 1,2,3,4 and 5

Appendix C – Consultation response 1 from Zone 4

Appendix D – Consultation response 2 from Zone 4

Appendix E – Consultation response 3 from Zone 2

Appendix F – Notice dated 15 January 2021