



Committee and Date

Strategic Licensing Committee

12 June 2024

Item

Public



REQUEST FOR A REVIEW OF THE HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE CARD

Responsible Officer:	Mandy Beever, Transactional Management and Licensing – Team Manager		
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Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Councillor Chris Schofield, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Services		

1. Synopsis

This report sets out the proposal for a revision of the Hackney Carriage Fare Card and the formal consultation to be undertaken.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The Shropshire Plan recognises the importance of supporting businesses to provide safer services. The fundamental purpose of the Licensing service is to support businesses to deliver their services in a way which allows them to thrive whilst protecting the safety and welfare of the public who live, work and visit Shropshire; together this will help to achieve a Healthy Economy.
- 2.2. In accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976 (the Act) the Council may fix rates or fares for the hire of a Hackney Carriage Vehicle which operates within the administrative area of the Council.
- 2.3. The current table of fares came into effect on 13 October 2022.
- 2.4. The Licensing Service received a request from a Hackney Carriage proprietor for the review of the current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares, in accordance with

Section 65 of the Act the Council is required to undertake a specified process when reviewing the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

2.5. This report sets out the requirements of the Act and the process being followed.

3. Recommendations

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

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

4.1. The proposed Hackney Carriage Table of Fares at **Appendix D** is considered fair and reasonable when balanced with the rise in fuel prices and the cost of living. Hackney Carriage Proprietors will be able to increase their income to offset some of the increased costs whilst at the same time does not price themselves out of the market.

4.2. Consideration has been made for the impact any increase in Hackney Carriage Fares may have on the travelling public for the same reasons it has on the Hackney Carriage Proprietors themselves. To offset changes in the marketplace and for Hackney Carriage Proprietors to retain their existing customer base they have the ability to charge up to the maximum amount on the Hackney Carriage Fare Card. This allows them to negotiate a reasonable price with their regular customers and retain their custom, whilst still enabling them to gain a margin of profit.

5. Financial Implications

5.1. There is no immediate financial impact to the Council however, the Council needs to ensure, as practically as possible, that it is supporting the Hackney Carriage provision. Failure to do this could result in a reduction of Hackney Carriages and in turn a reduction in the licence fees received. Furthermore, failure to support an increase in Hackney Carriage Fares reduces the ability for Hackney Carriage Proprietors to effectively run their business in a competitive marketplace.

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

6. Climate Change Appraisal

6.1. There are no anticipated climate change or environmental impacts associated with the recommendations in this report.

7. Background

- 7.1. The existing Hackney Carriage Tables of Fares came into effect on the 13 October 2022 and can be found at **Appendix A**.
- 7.2. On the 8 April 2024 the Licensing Service received a request for review of the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares, this request was received from a Hackney Carriage proprietor.
- 7.3. Officers revised the current Table of Fares to take into account the proposed changes and sent notification of an informal consultation to the trade inviting submissions on the revised Tables of Fares. This was sent out by email to the trade on 12 April 2024 and closed on 18 May 2024, see email at **Appendix B**.
- 7.4. A submission was received supporting the proposed change. A copy of the supporting submission can be found at **Appendix C**.
- 7.5. The fares set on the current Table of Fares were then revised taking into account the proposed increase. The amounts as set out in the Table of Fares at **Appendix D** will form the basis of the formal consultation.
- 7.6. 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.
- 7.7. 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 2 September 2024. 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.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1. It is proposed to undertake a formal consultation on the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares from 1 July 2024 to 4 August 2024. If no representations are received the proposed Hackney Carriage Table of Fares at **Appendix D** will come into effect on the 2 September 2024. If representations are received and not withdrawn a further report will be drafted for consideration at the Strategic Licensing Committee meeting due to be held on 9 October 2024.

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

Local Government (Miscellaneous) Provisions Act 1976

[Local Government \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act 1976 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk)

Strategic Licensing Committee – Hackney Carriage Fare Card Report dated 7 October 2020

[201007 Hackney Carriage Fare Card Report.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

Strategic Licensing Committee – Item 19 - Hackney Carriage Fare Card Report dated 5 October 2022

[Agenda for Strategic Licensing Committee on Wednesday, 5th October, 2022, 10.00 am — Shropshire Council](#)

Local Member:

Not applicable – report has county wide application

Appendices

Appendix A – Current Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

Appendix B – Informal Consultation – Hackney Carriage Table of Fares

Appendix C – Informal Consultation Responses

Appendix D – Proposed Hackney Carriage Table of Fares
