

Report to:	SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)
Date:	18 January 2022
Reporting Officer:	Emma Varnam – Assistant Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Subject:	APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
Report Summary:	The report details an application received from the Tameside Owners and Drivers Association to increase the maximum fares for Hackney Carriages.
Recommendations:	Members are requested to note the proposal to consult on the application for a variation of Hackney Carriage fares.
Corporate Plan:	Living Well – Improve satisfaction with local community.
Policy Implications:	There are no policy implications from this report.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer)	There are no direct financial implications for the Authority.
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	<p>The Council has statutory powers to fix Hackney Carriage Fares under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This can only be done once the statutory process for consultation has taken place under s.65 and any objections are properly considered.</p> <p>Proposals to vary the tables of fares need to be advertised and any objections brought back to this Panel for consideration</p>
Risk Management:	Enforcement activities ensure that the maximum permissible tariff is not exceeded.
Access to Information:	The author of the report is Mike Robinson – Regulatory Services Manager
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Robinson
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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows a district Council to fix the rates or fares within the local authority for Hackney Carriage Vehicles by the production of a table of fares following a prescribed period of statutory consultation.
- 1.2 The Act requires the Council to advertise a notice in at least one local newspaper for a period of 14 days, any proposal to change Hackney Carriage fares together with a table of fares or the variation thereof to allow any objections to be made.
- 1.3 If no objections are received the table of fares shall come into effect on the date of the expiration of the 14 day notice period.
- 1.4 If any objection is received a further date has to be set, not later than 2 months after the first specified date, on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The current fares were last reviewed in January 2018. A copy of the current table of fares is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 In November 2021, a request was received from the Tameside Owners and Drivers Association (TODA) for a variation to the fare structure. Details of the request are attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.3 There are currently 148 Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council. An informal consultation has been carried out with all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicle proprietors; 37 replies were received by Licensing supporting the variation and two replies opposing the application. A summary of the comments is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.4 A comparison of the current and proposed tariffs is also attached at **Appendix 4**, which shows the impact of the proposed changes.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Panel are requested to consider the application.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 As set out at the front of the report.