



Report to:	SPEAKERS PANEL (LICENSING)
Date:	13 September 2022
Reporting Officer:	Emma Varnam – Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods
Subject:	APPLICATION FOR A VARIATION OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
Report Summary:	The report details an application received from 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:	<p>The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Mike Robinson</p> <p> Telephone - 0161 342 4122</p> <p> E-mail – mike.robinson@tameside.gov.uk</p>

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 The consultation procedure following a request for a fare increase is as follows:-
 - Write to all Hackney Carriage owners seeking their views – completed 2 September 2022.
 - Report to Speakers Panel with owners comments – 13 September 2022.
 - Report to Executive Member for Executive Decision regarding permission to commence statutory consultation.
 - Advertise the fare increase in the local press in accordance with Legislation.
 - Allow 14 days for representations.
 - Representations taken into consideration and decision made by Executive Member (*If no representations received then the fare review is automatically approved*).
 - Meter agents to program new fares.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The current fares were last increased on 10 March 2022. A copy of the current table of fares is attached at **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 On 16 August 2022, a request was received from the Tameside Owners & Drivers Association (TODA) for a further 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. Between 18 August 2022 and 2 September 2022, an informal consultation was carried out with all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicle proprietors, seeking their views on the proposal. 45 replies were received by Licensing all supporting the variation. 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.