

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	23 November 2022
Executive Member:	Councillor Denise Ward, Executive Member, Climate Emergency and Environmental Services
Reporting Officer:	Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods
Subject:	REVIEW 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:	That the public advertisement of the revised Hackney Carriage Fares be approved.
Corporate Plan:	Modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations - Increase access to public transport
Policy Implications:	In line with council policy and process.
Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer)	<p>The decision provides supporting details of the existing fares levied by Hackney Carriage taxi drivers and operators (Appendix 1) together with the proposed increased fare levels (Appendix 4).</p> <p>Members should note that the Council does not receive any share of the fare charges levied by drivers and operators on the public for using taxi services. However, the Council does receive taxi licence fee income from the drivers and operators as they are all required to have a valid licence in place (issued by the Council) to legally trade in the borough.</p> <p>The existing taxi driver and operator licence fees levied by the Council are currently under a separate appraisal process. This is in line with a wider Greater Manchester minimum licencing standards review that is currently underway. This will ensure that a consistent and transparent approach is adopted by each Greater Manchester local authority when determining annual licence fee levels.</p>
Legal Implications: (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)	The legal implications are detailed in the main body of the report.
Risk Management:	A balance needs to be achieved between affordable fares and ensuring taxi drivers are able to survive the cost of living crisis as well otherwise numbers will reduce.
Background Information:	The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting Emma Varnam, Assistant Director, Operations and Neighbourhoods



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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 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. The proposal includes:
 - Increase on all Tariffs
 - Soiling charge increase from £30 to £40
 - A requirement for the passenger to pay costs incurred at Manchester Airport (drop off/pick up charges)
- 2.3 Details of the request from TODA are attached at **Appendix 2**.
- 2.4 There are currently 148 Hackney Carriages licensed by the Council. An informal consultation with all licensed Hackney Carriage vehicle proprietors was completed on 2 September 2022. 45 replies were received by Licensing all supporting the variation. A summary of the comments is attached at **Appendix 3**.
- 2.5 A comparison of the current and proposed tariffs is also attached at **Appendix 4**, which shows the impact of the proposed changes.
- 2.6 Due to significant increases to the cost of fuel, many Councils across Greater Manchester and England have either recently processed, or are currently considering Hackney Carriage fare reviews. A table providing a comparison of fares for a 2 mile journey on Tariff 1 is shown at **Appendix 5**.
- 2.7 The Speakers Panel (Licensing) considered this matter on 13 September 2022 giving their support to the fare increase proposal. Public advertisement of this application is now sought.
- 2.8 It should be noted that in the event that no public objections are received following advertisement, the Council is required to implement the changes. However if public objections are received during the consultation period, further consideration of the application will be required by Executive Member.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

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