

TO CONSIDER ANY REVISION TO THE TARIFF FOR HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLES IN THANET

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| Meeting | 15 th February 2022 |
| Report Author | Alison Brock, Technical Support Team Manager |
| Portfolio Holder | Cllr Saunders |
| Status | For Decision |
| Classification: | Unrestricted |

Executive Summary:

To consider any revision to the tariff for hackney carriage vehicles in Thanet.

Recommendation:

The instructions of the Board are requested.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

None

Legal

Where the Licensing Board makes or varies a table of fares it will need to be published in accordance with legislation.

Corporate

None

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

In considering this application it is appropriate to consider the rights of both the applicant and other parties, such as “responsible authorities” and/or “other persons” (objectors). The procedure for determining licences has a prescribed format to ensure fair representation of the relevant facts by all parties.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Environment*
- *Communities*

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Under legislation contained in the Town Police Clauses Act 1847 and the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 authority is given to Councils to set the rates/fares charged by hackney carriage vehicles in their area.
- 1.2 Until 2015 Members had agreed that the taxi trade set and advertised its own tariff.
- 1.3 A report went to the Licensing Board in March 2015 and members agreed to take over the responsibility for the fixing of fares for Hackney Carriage Vehicles and set the tariff and the fares have not increased since that date.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 A Hackney Carriage Driver has requested a revision of the fees as there have been no changes since 2015.
- 2.2 Annex A attached shows three tables
 - i) is a table showing the cost of a basic (ie before Midnight) fee for a 2 mile journey for Thanet and other surrounding areas with the dates these fees were set. This information was taken from the Private Hire Trade Magazine and is updated monthly. The national average Two mile Hackney fare at Tariff one is currently £6.08.
 - ii) The second table shows a suggested 10, 20 and 30% increase for the Thanet Tariffs
 - iii) The third table shows the increases for Tariffs 2 and 3.
- 2.3 Annex B – the current tariff card and tariff cards for 10, 20 and 30% increase.

- 2.4 The following Extra fees have also been increased -
- i) Contamination Fee from £50 to £60 – on all 3 percentage increases
 - ii) Passengers/Shopping/Trunk etc – from 20p to 25p again on all 3 percentage increases – these can be increased further if members wish.
- 2.5 Should members approve the increase, the Director of Neighbourhoods be authorised to publicise, for a minimum of 14 days the proposed fare increase as detailed in the report and if no objections are received the proposed fare increase will take effect on 1st April 2022.
- 3.0 Options**
- 3.1 Agree the 10% increase in fees
 - 3.2 Agree the 20% increase in fees
 - 3.3 Agree the 30% increase in fees
 - 3.4 Agree the increase in fees for Contamination, passengers, shopping etc
 - 3.5 Agree an increase of a different percentage
 - 3.6 To make no revisions to the tariff

Contact Officer: Alison Brock Technical Support Team Manager
Reporting to: Penny Button, Director of Neighbourhoods

Annex List

Annex 1 – Tables showing current and increases

Annex 2 – Current and increased Tariff cards

Background Papers

Licensing Act 2003 - <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2003/17/contents>

DCMS Guidance documents issued under Section 182 of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended)-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/explanatory-memorandum-revised-guidance-issued-under-s-182-of-licensing-act-2003>

Thanet District Council Statement of Licensing Policy-

<https://www.thanet.gov.uk/media/3168621/licensing-document-2016.pdf>