

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

Licensing Board	13th February 2024
Report Author	Alison Brock, Technical Support Team Manager
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Heather Keen, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Thanet Wide

Executive Summary:

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

Recommendation(s):

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.

Risk Management

The options set below allows discretion to Licensing Board members in reaching fair and proportionate decisions.

There is a risk in not bringing this report to the Licensing Board, allowing drivers to be licensed, where there brings into doubt their suitability.

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 (Hackney Carriages) set and advertised its own tariff.
- 1.3 A report went to the Licensing Board in March 2015 and members agreed to take on the responsibility for the fixing of fares for Hackney Carriage Vehicles and set the tariff.
- 1.4 The last increase of 15%, rounded up to the nearest pence was in April 2022 following a report in February 2022. The current fees are attached at Annex A.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Due to the increases in cost of living, fuel etc the Board needs to consider an increase in fees.
- 2.2 Attached at Annex B 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.

- 2.3 Annex B also shows a 10, 20 and 30% increase for the Thanet Tariffs.
- 2.4 The last increase (2022) in fees also included a rise from 20p to 25p for suitcases, shopping bags and passengers and an increase in the Contamination Fee from £50 to £100.
- 2.5 If an increase in fees is agreed an advert will be placed in a local paper and on our website for consultation.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Members consider the contents of the report to determine whether a fare increase should be agreed and if so how much.
- 3.2 Members consider the contents of the report and leave the fees as they currently are.

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

Annex List

Annex 1 - Current Thanet Fees

Annex 2 - 2 Mile fees for other Kent Local Authorities and suggested increases for Thanet Fees

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>

Corporate Consultation

Finance: None

Legal: None