

BROMSGROVE DISTRICT COUNCIL

LICENSING COMMITTEE

21ST JANUARY 2008

HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES

Responsible Portfolio Holder	Cllr P. Whittaker
Responsible Head of Service	Dave Hammond

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To consider the Table of Fares charged by Hackney Carriage owners.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the mileage rates as set out in section (i) of the Table of Fares attached at Appendix 1 be approved.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council carries out an annual review of the Table of Hackney Carriage Fares, which applies in the District.

- 3.2 As part of the review all Hackney Carriage owners are consulted on whether or not there should be an increase in the fares charged to passengers. There are presently 49 individuals or firms in the district, which own Hackney Carriages. They have 75 vehicles between them. The results of this year's consultation are:

- 1 respondent (owning 1 vehicle) favour a 2.5% increase
- 1 respondent (owning 1 vehicle) favour an 8.3% increase
- 1 respondent (owning 1 vehicle) favour a 10% increase.

- 3.3 The remaining owners have not responded to the consultation letter. The low level of response reflects the levels of responses received in previous years and it is not suggested that any further consultations should be undertaken. All drivers were reminded to respond to the consultation in the Council's December newsletter.

- 3.4 Comparisons with other nearby Councils, based on the cost of a 2-mile journey, are as follows:

Wyre Forest	£4.00
Redditch	£4.20
Worcester	£4.50
Bromsgrove	£4.60

Wychavon	£4.60
Dudley	£5.10
Malvern Hills	£5.20
Birmingham	£5.50
Solihull	£5.50

- 3.5 The national average is £4.65 for a 2-mile journey as at December 2007.
- 3.6 The Council has not increased the mileage rates since April 2005.
- 3.7 Based on these comparisons, and that the cost of a 2-mile journey in Bromsgrove is just under the national average, Members may wish to consider increasing the mileage rates by 2.5% for 2008/09.
- 3.8 The proposed increase will result in a charge of approximately £4.67 for a 2-mile journey.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee has the power to fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney carriage vehicle by means of a table under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 5.2 When the Council varies a table of fares, it must publish in a local newspaper, a notice setting out the table of fares or variations to the table. If there are no objections, the variation comes into operation upon the expiry of the period specified in the notice. If there are objections the matter will have to be considered further by the Committee.
- 5.3 In accordance with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, there is no limit to the amount of increase or variation, nor need an increase be dependent upon external factors such as the increase in fuel prices.

6. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 How the item links to the Council's objectives and priorities.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 The main risks associated with the details included in this report are:
- Potential for those who are affected by the proposal to challenge the Council, by arguing that the proposed increases are unreasonable.

7.3 Currently the risk identified in paragraph 7.1 is not addressed by any risk register and will be added to the Planning and Environment Services risk register as follows:

- *To ensure that any increase to the Table of Hackney Carriage Fares is deemed reasonable, following consultation with all Hackney Carriage Owners.*

8. CUSTOMER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 All Hackney Carriage owners will be notified in writing of any increase, which will take affect as soon as possible after 1st April 2008. Where after their meters will have to be calibrated to the new tariffs and tested by the Depot.
- 8.2 In accordance with legislation, the Council must publish details of any proposed variances to the table of Fares, allowing for objections to the proposals.

9. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equalities and diversity implications.

10. VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no value for money implications.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Procurement Issues - None
Personnel Implications - None
Governance/Performance Management - None
Community Safety including Section 17 of Crime and Disorder Act 1998 –
Policy - None
Environmental - None

12. OTHERS CONSULTED ON THE REPORT

Portfolio Holder	YES
Chief Executive	No

Executive Director (Partnerships and Projects)	No
Executive Director (Services)	No
Assistant Chief Executive	No
Head of Service	Yes
Head of Legal, Equalities & Democratic Services	Yes

13. WARDS AFFECTED

All Wards are affected by the contents of the report.

14. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Proposed Table of Fares for 2008/09

15. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Responses received from Hackney Carriage Owners

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