

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

meeting date: TUESDAY, 26 MARCH 2024
title: HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: STEPHEN BARKER, SOLICITOR

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To seek Committee’s views on whether Hackney Carriage fares should be varied from the level recommended by Committee on 30 January 2024, and for Committee to set a further date for the introduction of the revised table of fares.

1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities

- Community Objectives }
 - Corporate Priorities }
 - Other Considerations }
- Consideration of these issues will promote the Council’s aim to be a well managed Council.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 At the meeting on 30 January 2024, Committee considered a report on the possible review of Hackney Carriage fares. A copy of that report is annexed at Appendix 1. That report explains the procedure required if the level of Hackney Carriage fares is to be reviewed, and the reason for the proposed revision, which had been customer feedback as reported by drivers to the Annual Taxi meeting.

2.2 Committee resolved that the night-time tariff between 12 midnight and 6am (and between 7pm and 12 midnight on Christmas Eve and NewYear's Eve) should be reduced to a maximum of £5.50 for the first mile and £0.70 for each 1/5th mile thereafter.

2.3 This was advertised in the local press and a copy of the advertisement can be found at Appendix 2. The proposed variation was also circulated to the local taxi trade.

3 ISSUES

3.1 Two representations have been received, both from Hackney Carriage driver's licence holders. The objections are in identical terms, as follows:

"Tariff 2 should be £5.50 first mile and £0.90 1/5th mile. Please take this into consideration. That is £1.25 off the first mile and £0.15 less every 1/5th mile".

3.2 Members may recall that they had considered the reduction of fares for the further stages of 1/5th of a mile after the first mile, commenting that running costs do not increase because the journey is after midnight, and therefore reduced the proposed fare for those further stages to the same level as daytime rates at £0.70. Were the objection to be upheld, this would increase the fare from that previously considered by £0.20 per 1/5th mile (ie £1.00 for each full mile completed).

3.3 Section 65(4) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that, if an objection is duly made and not withdrawn, the District Council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date (Monday, 26 February 2024 in this case), on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

3.4 Members will recall that this issue had arisen because Hackney Carriage drivers reported that customers had expressed dissatisfaction at the fares which had been set late in 2022. Although no objection had been received at that time, subsequent customer feedback had led to the request for a reduced night-time fare. No specific proposal had been received from the Hackney trade and Members determined the figures which they considered appropriate.

3.5 In view of the specific representations which have now been received, Members are invited to reconsider the fare for each subsequent 1/5th of a mile after the first mile for journeys at the times stated in paragraph 2.2, and to set a date for introduction of the revised fares.

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources }
• Technical, Environmental and Legal }
• Political }
• Reputation }
• Equality & Diversity }
- The Council has a duty to provide an effective system of Hackney Carriage licensing and review of the fares contributes to this process. Costs for advertising etc will be met from existing budgets.

5 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Resolve that the fare table set on 30 January 2024 be revised to show £0.90 to be the fare for each subsequent 1/5th of a mile or part thereof between 12 midnight and 6am and between 7pm and midnight on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

5.2 Determine that the revised table of fares comes into effect on 16 April 2024 .

STEPHEN BARKER

SOLICITOR

MARSHAL SCOTT

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

BACKGROUND PAPERS

(If any)

For further information please ask for Stephen Barker, extension 3216.