

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE	18 JULY 2018	5
HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

A request has been received from Whitesides Taxis seeking an increase in the level of hackney carriage fares. The national average increase in the level of fares has been ascertained and the Committee will be requested to consider the request.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the report and determines the request to increase the level of fares.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

11/12/2017 – Public Protection Committee [resolved](#) to:

- 1) Increase the level of fares by 4.6% as detailed within the report.
- 2) Increase the cost of extras from 20p to 40p.
- 3) For journeys where between 5 & 8 passengers are being conveyed, the driver may charge 1.5 times the metered fare.
- 4) Increase the soiling charge from £40 to £60.

17/10/16 – Council resolved to “Delegate to the Public Protection Committee responsibility for determining increases in the level of Hackney Carriage Fares”.

20/7/16 - Public Protection Committee considered a request for a fare increase and resolved to “Refuse the request for an increase in level of hackney carriage fares as being inappropriate”

27/11/13 – Portfolio Holder Decision to approve the following:

- (i) Tariff 1 and 2 fares be increased by 1 per cent.
- (ii) 60 pence be added to every hiring between 0200 and 0600.
- (iii) Taxi operators be requested to display clearly in their vehicles any meter reduction due to discounts

16/7/12 – Portfolio Holder Decision, “In reviewing fares the Portfolio Holder felt that particular regard should be given to the needs of the travelling public, with reference both to what it is reasonable to expect people to pay and to the need to give drivers sufficient incentive to provide a service when it is needed. Therefore the Portfolio Holder approved the requested increase in the hackney carriage fares of 2.5%, as recommended by the [Public Protection Committee](#).”

6/4/11 – Portfolio Holder Decision, “That the portfolio holder approved the following recommendations of the Public Protection Committee and determines the request: In view of very significant rises in fuel and other costs involved in running and maintaining hackney carriages, that hackney carriage fares be increased by 7.5%, and that further surcharges of 20p be allowed if the price of diesel reaches trigger levels of £1.50 and £1.75 per litre.”

16/4/2009 – Portfolio Holder Decision, “The Portfolio Holder considered the recommendations of the [Public Protection Committee](#) and approved the recommendations contained within the report.”

7/12/2007 – Portfolio Holder Decision, “The Portfolio Holder considered the report and the recommendations of the [Public Protection Committee](#) and determines the requests.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	√
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	√
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	√
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	√
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	√

REPORT

- The provisions of Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allow Local Authorities to fix the level of fares that may be demanded in connection with the hire of a Hackney Carriage.
- Members will recall that at the meeting of the Public Protection Committee on the 18th December 2017 a request for an increase in the level of fares submitted on behalf of Whitesides Taxis was approved as follows:
 - Increase the level of fares by 4.6% as detailed within the report.*
 - Increase the cost of extras from 20p to 40p.*
 - For journeys where between 5 & 8 passengers are being conveyed, the driver may charge 1.5 times the metered fare.*
 - Increase the soiling charge from £40 to £60.*
 - increase of 4.6% on all tariffs*
 - Increase in the cost of extras from 20p to 40p*
 - for journeys where between 5 & 8 passengers are being conveyed, the driver may charge 1.5 times the metered fare.*
 - Increase the soiling charge from £40 to £60*
- The Table of Fares currently includes 4 tariffs. Tariff 1 applies Monday to Friday between 0600 and 2300, tariff 2 Monday to Friday 2300 – 0200, Saturdays and Sundays and statutory holidays, tariff 3 relates to Christmas and New Year whilst tariff 4 applies between 0200 and 0600 to acknowledge those drivers that work through the night. Tariff 4 essentially adds an extra 60pence to the initial hiring charge of a journey.
- Unfortunately, the effect upon tariff 4 was not referred to in the previous report and was therefore not updated in line with the other increases resulting in a potential decrease in the level of fares. Members are therefore requested to note this and consider amending the Table of Hackney Carriage Fares so that it reads,
Tariff 4: £3.50 for the first 300 yards or uncompleted part thereof.
20p for each subsequent 150 yards or uncompleted part thereof

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no direct financial implications for the Council in setting the fares for hackney carriages.
Legal	None arising directly from the report.
Community Safety	The provision of taxis is an integral part of the transport infrastructure and is particularly influential in the transportation of individuals late at night when bus services have ceased. The provision of affordable taxis assist in community safety by ensuring people are removed from town centres safely and helps to reduce the incidence of drink driving.
Human Rights and Equalities	Hackney carriages are a vital form of transport for the disabled who may have difficulties accessing other forms of public transport. It is important therefore that fares are maintained at a level which will encourage investment in DDA compliant vehicles yet remain affordable to disabled people.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from the report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from the report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Chris Hambly	chris.hambly@fylde.gov.uk Tel 01253 658422	4 th July 2018

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Licensing Policy	October 2017	http://www.fylde.gov.uk/assets/files/11/Hackney-Carriage-and-Private-Hire-Licensing-Policy.pdf
Public Protection Committee	11/12/2017	Public Protection Minutes