

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Cabinet	
MEETING DATE:	14th September 2011	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 2308
TITLE:	REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE TARIFF RATES	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix A; Table of Existing Hackney Carriage Tariff Rates		
Appendix B; Table of Proposed Hackney Carriage Tariff Rates		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 To review the Hackney Carriage tariff rates charged within the Bath and North East area for time and distance.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet agrees that:

2.1 There is an increase of 5.64% on the current Hackney Carriage fares for time and distance.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 As the tariff increase relates to the taxi trade there are no significant cost implications for the authority.
- 3.2 The cost of consultation and advertising of the tariff changes, in the local papers, is met within existing budgets.

4 CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- Sustainable growth
- Improving transport and the public realm

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The authority for the Council to set fares for Hackney Carriages is given under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 ("the Act").
- 5.2 Section 65 (1) of the Act states that a district council may 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 vehicle or with arrangements for the hire of a vehicle to be paid on respect of the hire of hackney carriages by means of a table of fares made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section.
- 5.3 The procedure to be followed in exercising this power is as follows:-
- 5.3.1 when a Council makes, or varies, a table of fares (which may be by time and/or distance), it must publish, in at least one local newspaper, a notice setting out the table of fares or variation to the table
- 5.3.2 the notice must specify a date, not less than 14 days from the date on which the notice is first published. That date has two functions i.e.
- a) it is the date by which any objections to the table, or variations, can be made.
- b) it is the date on which the revised fares will come into effect, if either no objections have been received, or any objections received have been withdrawn before that specified date
- 5.3.3 the notice must contain details of where objections should be addressed and how they can be made.
- 5.3.4 a copy of the proposed tariff must be available at the Council's Offices for the public to inspect, free of charge, at reasonable hours.
- 5.3.5 once the objection period (usually 14 days) has expired, if no objections have been received or those that have been received are subsequently withdrawn, the table, or variation, will come into effect at the end of the objection period or when the last objection has been withdrawn.
- 5.4 If there are objections the Council must consider them and then set a further date, within two months after that date first specified in the notice, on which the table is to come into force with, or without, modification as decided

- 5.5 The legislation allows local authorities to set fares and there is no requirement to review fares annually. However, it is the policy of this Council to review Hackney Carriage fares annually to ensure a competitive and attractive service.
- 5.6 The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery considered the Hackney Carriage fares in November 2010 and the revised tariff was introduced in December 2010.
- 5.7 A copy of the existing tariff is produced at Appendix A.
- 5.8 A copy of the proposed tariff, including all changes, is produced at Appendix B. The proposed structure is a maximum table of fares; the driver may exercise discretion and charge a lower fare than that shown on the taximeter.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The report author and Lead Cabinet member have fully reviewed the risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 A proportionate equalities impact assessment has not been carried out as this is not relevant to this issue.

8 RATIONALE

- 8.1 In the 1980's Bath City Council adopted a formula to calculate a "fair" increase in the tariff rate. With only one or two exceptions this formula has been used every year to calculate the percentage increase. The adopted formula used for calculating the proposed tariff rate is one-half of the percentage increase in the Average Earnings Index plus one-half of the percentage increase in the cost of motoring. Using the formula the proposed increase calculates as 5.64%. The formula is based on the annual increase between the 1st April and the 31st March the following year. However, since the last review there has been a sharp rise in the price of fuel which has made a substantial increase in the running costs of Hackney Carriage vehicles.

- 8.2 Following consultation with the Hackney Carriage trade, the proposal is to carry out the following changes to the existing tariff rates:-

- 8.2.1 to increase the tariff rate across all five tariffs by 5.64% (this includes the starting yardage, drop yardage and the waiting time). This increase is in line with the formula that the Council uses to calculate an increase and is based on current information from the Office of National Statistics.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 A meeting was held with representatives of the Bath Spa Taxis Owners Association where they listed changes that they would like to see made to the existing table of tariffs.

- 9.2 The proposals from the Bath Spa Taxi Owners Association were:-

- 9.2.1 to amend tariffs four and five so that these included the increased tariff after 5 miles.

9.2.2 that the starting price or drop is held at its current price this year but will be reviewed next year.

9.3 The Bath Spa Taxi Owners Association was in agreement with the proposed increase of 5.64%.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 Service Users; Section 151 Finance Officer; Monitoring Officer.

10.2 Meetings with representatives of the Bath Spa Taxi Owners Association.

10.3 The proposed decision will be published in the local paper specifying a date by which the public can object.

11 ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN REACHING THE DECISION

11.1 Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Human Rights; Legal Considerations under the legislation specified in Section five of this report.

12 ADVICE SOUGHT

12.1 The Council's Monitoring Officer (Council Solicitor) and Section 151 Officer (Strategic Director - Support Services) have had the opportunity to input to this report and have cleared it for publication.

Contact person	Andrew Jones, Environmental Monitoring and Licensing Manager Tel 01225 477557
Sponsoring Cabinet Member	Councillor R Symonds
Background papers	The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
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