

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cllr Bob Goodman, Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	On or after 31 March 2018	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3045
TITLE:	Review of Hackney Carriage Tariff Rates	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: Appendix A: Existing Hackney Carriage Tariff Rates- January 2014 Appendix B: Proposed Hackney Carriage Tariff Rates		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 To review the hackney carriage tariff rates charged within the Bath and North East Somerset area for time and distance.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Development is asked to approve the following increase in the hackney carriage tariff rates:

- 2.1 An increase of 4.9% on the current fares

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 The cost of consultation and, advertising the tariff changes in the local papers, is met within existing service budgets and funded via the hackney carriage licence fee.
- 3.2 The extra income received from the increase in the tariff will be received by the taxi drivers and not the Licensing Authority.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 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 implications of the Act are that:

- (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 variations to the table, specifying the period (not less than 14 days) within which, and the manner in which, objections to the table, or variations can be made.
 - (2) 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.
 - (3) If there are no objections the table, or variation, will come into effect on the expiration date or the period specified in the notice.
- 4.2 If there are objections the Council must consider the objection and then set a further date, within two months after that date first specified, on which the table is to come into force with or without modification, as decided.
- 4.3 The legislation allows local authorities to set fares; 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 THE REPORT

- 5.1 A copy of the existing tariff is produced in Appendix A.
- 5.2 A copy of the proposed tariff, including all changes, is produced in 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 RATIONALE

- 6.1 In determining the proposed increase in the tariff rate, the percentage increase in the cost of owning a vehicle and the percentage increase of wages since the last increase has been considered, through information provided by the Office for National Statistics.
- 6.2 The fact that the tariff rate has not been increased since 2014 was also considered.
- 6.3 The Consumer Price Inflation data set published by the Office of National Statistics indicates that the inflation cost on motoring has increased 8.1% in the last year. The Council's policy is to take half of this increase and add half the increase in average earnings (0.85%) to get the recommended fare increase of 4.9%.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 The option of no increase in the tariff rate was considered but rejected as the tariff had not been increased since 2014 and the cost of running a vehicle has increased since that time.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Letters were sent to all of the hackney carriage proprietors in both Zones 1 and 2 informing them of the proposed percentage increase and requesting comment. No comments about the increase were received.
- 8.2 As part of the formal process the proposed tariff was advertised in the Bath Chronicle between the dates of 8-23 February 2018. During the same period, copies of the proposed tariff were placed in the Council offices at the Guildhall and Lewis House in Bath, The Hollies in Midsomer Norton and the Civic Centre in Keynsham.
- 8.3 No objections or comments have been received from the public on the proposed tariff.
- 8.4 The Council's Cabinet Member for Development and Neighbourhoods, Group Manager for Public Protection and Health Improvement, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer have had the opportunity to input to this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

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Background papers	<i>None</i>
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