

Hackney Carriage Fares

Private Hire and Hackney Carriage Licensing Sub-Committee Date: 15th July 2008

Author: Group Director, Environment and Regeneration

Wards Affected: All

Purpose

- To consider objections received to the proposed Hackney Carriage fare increase from 1 July 2008.

Recommendation

The Sub-Committee is asked to: -

- Uphold the objections discussed in paragraph 2 and that the revised fare scale should take effect from 1 September 2008 as shown in Appendix C.

1. Reasons

- 1.1 At a meeting of this Sub-Committee on 22 May 2008 it was agreed to advertise a revised Hackney Carriage fare scale, to take effect from 1 July 2008, provided no objections were received.
- 1.2 Objections have now been received. Section 65 (4) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states that if objections are made to an advertised scale of fares, and is not withdrawn, the District Council shall set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date (ie 1 July 2008) on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections.

2. Detail

- 2.1 Following publication of a revised scale of hackney carriage fares to take effect from 1 July 2008, the Council has received 27 objections to the new scale (Appendix A). All objectors are of the same mind; they object to the proposed "tick over" rate of £16.20 and wish this to be restored to its' present rate of £11.20. The effect of the higher "tick-over" rate is to reduce the fare for longer journeys.
- 2.2 Of the 27 objectors, one is no longer licensed; two voted against the fare rise in the ballot held in April 2008, two voted to accept the fare rise, and the remaining 22 failed to register their vote.

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- 2.3 To illustrate the impact of the objections, if upheld, the matrix as shown in Appendix B has been worked up to show the proposed revised fares applying to journeys of one to five miles, and the comparison if the objections are upheld.
- 2.4 In view of the current escalating price of fuel it is the view of officers that the objections be upheld and the revised fare chart attached at Appendix C should be implemented from 1 September 2008.
- 2.5 Members of this sub-committee are reminded that the last fare increase was in December 2004.

Alternative Options

- To overrule the objections and implement this fare chart agreed by this Sub Committee on 22 May 2008 to take effect, without modification, on 1 September 2008.

Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

There are no direct financial implications to the Council itself arising from this report. There are no procurement issues arising from this report. The costs of managing the Council's Hackney Carriage responsibilities are met from existing budgets.

Links to Corporate Plans and Policies (in particular to Swindon 2010 Promises)

A Healthy and Caring Place; An Economically Prosperous Place; An Environmentally Friendly Place; A Safe Place.

Consultees

The Director of Finance (s.151 Officer) and the Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted on all reports.

Background Papers and Appendices

- Appendix "A" – Objections to the proposed fare chart.
- Appendix "B" – Chart of proposed revised fares.
- Appendix "C" – Objectors' Proposed fare chart from September 2008.