

Hackney Carriage Fares – Proposed Fare Scale

Portfolio:	Community
Ward(s) Affected:	All

Purpose

To agree to undertake statutory procedures for increasing fares for the hire of hackney carriages.

Background

1. The Council is empowered by Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to set the rate of fares for hackney carriages that it licences. The fare can include charges for time and distance and other charges that may be made in relation to hiring a hackney carriage. The last increase in hackney carriage fares was implemented in July 2008. Consultations have taken place with hackney carriage proprietors and drivers in 2009, 2010 and 2011 with regard to increasing fares but with exception of two proprietors last year, the responses that were received indicated that proprietors and drivers did not wish fares to be increased at that time. The current fare chart is attached at Annex A.

Current Positions

2. Following large increase in fuel prices, insurance premiums and associated running costs over the last couple of years, the Council wrote to all drivers and proprietors seeking views as to whether consideration should be given to a fare increase. The responses that have been received are attached at Annex B.
3. Comparisons with other Local Authorities can be seen at Annex C along with the new proposed fare chart for Surrey Heath.
4. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 also requires that the proposed fare changes be published in a local newspaper prior to implementation. If no objections are received within the period prescribed in the advertisement, the new fares will come into effect on the last objection date. As a result of the advertising if any objections are received these will have to be put before committee to consider them.

Proposal

5. After considering the views and suggestions which have been received from some drivers, and comparing the current tariff chart to those of surrounding boroughs, it is proposed to advertise the new fares is attached to Annex D.

Resource Implications

6. If an increase in fares is agreed then arrangements will have to be made for all the meters to be adjusted and tested against the measured mile. There are 109 Hackney Carriages and Private Hire vehicles fitted with taximeters.

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7. The Council is required by statute to advertise the proposed fare increase and are responsible for meeting the cost. There is provision made within the budget each year for such advertisement.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is advised to note and comment upon the proposal that the draft hackney carriage fare chart be advertised in accordance with statutory provisions.

Background Papers: None

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