



Northumberland County Council

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

DATE: 20th June 2018

Review of Hackney Carriage Tariffs

Report of the Interim Director of Place: Mr Paul Johnston

Cabinet Member: Councillor John Riddle

Purpose of report

To provide the Licensing Regulatory Committee with additional information concerning the existing hackney carriage fare tariff and to consider whether or not it is appropriate to increase the tariff to reflect increases in the general cost of living.

Recommendations

It is recommended that

1. The Committee consider whether or not to grant an increase in the fare tariff currently in operation for each of the hackney carriages zones.
2. Determine whether to harmonise the tariff structure across Northumberland and adopt the amalgamated tariff
3. Authorise statutory consultation notices
5. Agree consideration of any representations to be delegated to Chair and Vice Chair.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the enjoying, thriving and living priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021

Key issues

The last increase in the hackney carriage tariffs was in 2013.

The Council currently has six hackney carriages zones which correspond to the old district boundaries. Each of these zones has its own tariff.

A letter was sent to all hackney carriage proprietors asking for their views on whether they wished for a increase in the tariff. There was a very low response rate and conflicting views of the trade.

Members considered the responses at a meeting on 28th February and requested that Officers report back to the next committee with a proposal that would harmonise the tariffs across Northumberland.

Officers have analysed the tariffs and have formulated a tariff which could harmonise the tariffs across Northumberland. The tariff is attached as Appendix A.

This tariff would mean a significant increase for some zones. A table is attached as Appendix B showing the increases in the tariff.

Background

Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65, the Council has the power to determine the charges that may be made in respect of journeys undertaken in a hackney carriage.

There are 4 elements in relation to the setting of a tariff:

- Timing of the tariffs
- Flag fall
- Intervals at which fare increases
- Extra charges

The last increase in the hackney carriage tariff was in 2013. The current fare tariffs are set out at Appendix C.

A letter was sent to all hackney carriage proprietors requesting their views of a possible tariff increase. Copies of the responses are attached as Appendix D together with a summary.

Blyth Valley is the only zone which has additional tariffs relating to larger vehicles which can transport more than 4 persons at one time.

There are also significant differences between the timings for the tariffs. Berwick tariff 2 comes into force on Saturday morning while the other zones tariff 2 does not come into effect until 11pm or midnight.

In addition to the general fare for time or distance of a journey the tariff can include other elements such as additional luggage. There are significant differences in the additional charges allowed across the zones. An example would be the soiling charge where Alnwick does not any charge, Wansbeck have a maximum charge of £25 while for Hexham the maximum charge is £60.

In order to vary the hackney carriage tariffs a notice must be published in the local newspaper specifying the date the new tariff is to come into effect. Any representations received must be considered and a new date must be set, within 2 months of the original date, for the implementation of the tariff with or without modifications.

Implications

Policy	None
Finance and value for money	None
Legal	None
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	Any amendment of the tariff must be subject of full consultation.
Carbon reduction	None
Wards	All

Report sign off.

	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

Author and Contact Details

Tasmin Hardy
Licensing Manager
01670 623742
Tasmin.hardy@northumberland.gov.uk

Amalgamated Tariff

TARIFF 1

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£2.50
For each subsequent 91 yards or part thereof	10p
Waiting time: per 30 seconds or part thereof	20p

TARIFF 2: Between 11pm and 7am and all day Sundays and Public Holidays

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£2.90
For each subsequent 72 yards or part thereof	10p
Waiting time per 30 seconds or part thereof	20p

TARIFF 3: Between 6pm on 24 December and 3am on 27 December and between 6pm on 31 December and 3am on 2 January

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£4.70
For each subsequent 91 yards or part thereof	20p
Waiting time: perper 30 seconds or part thereof	40p

TARIFF 4 (More than four passengers)

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£2.70
For each subsequent 91 yards or part thereof	10p
Waiting time: per 30 seconds or part thereof	20p

TARIFF 5: (More than four passengers) Between 11pm and 7am and all day Sundays and Public Holidays

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£3.20
For each subsequent 72 yards or part thereof	10p
Waiting time per 30 seconds or part thereof	20p

TARIFF 6: (More than four passengers) Between 6pm on 24 December and 3am on 27 December and between 6pm on 31 December and 3am on 2 January

For the first 500 yards or part thereof	£4.70
For each subsequent 91 yards or part thereof	20p
Waiting time: per 1 minutes or part thereof	40p

Soiling Charge (except children under 14 years of age)	£60
Dogs (excluding guide dogs) or other animal	£1.00
Each items of Luggage, pram, wheeled trolley	£1.00

