



Northumberland County Council

Licensing & Regulatory Committee

Wednesday, 14 February 2024

Hackney Carriage Tariff Review

Report of Councillor(s) [Cllr Gordon Stewart](#), , Cabinet Member for Looking After our Communities

Responsible Officer(s): Darin Wilson, Head of Public Protection

1. **Link to Key Priorities of the Corporate Plan**

This report relates to the Corporate Plan priorities: driving economic growth

2. **Purpose of report**

To see the views of Members on whether there should be a review of the current hackney carriage tariff. The tariff was last reviewed in February 2023 with an agreement to undertake a review of the tariff within one year.

3. **Recommendations**

Members note the contents of the report and consider whether a review of the current tariff is required.

4. **Forward plan date and reason for urgency if applicable**

Not applicable.

5. **Background**

5.1 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.

5.2 There are 4 elements in relation to the setting of a tariff: Timing of the tariffs, flag fall, intervals at which fare increases and extra charges.

- 5.3 On 15th February 2023 the Licensing Committee resolved to increase all 6 tariffs with an increase of 5%, to be reviewed in one year.
- 5.4 Concern has been raised that the current tariff for larger vehicles (5 or more passengers) is insufficient.
- 5.5 Following Local Government reorganisation in 2009 hackney carriage licensing was split into 6 zones covering the 6 former districts. Separate tariffs were in place for these 6 zones until a review of the tariffs in 2018.
- 5.6 In 2018 an extensive review of the tariffs was conducted. It merged all 6 sets of tariffs into one set which covered all of Northumberland. Due to the way the tariffs had been previously formulated it meant that for some zones there was a significant increase while for others it was modest. The current set of tariffs is attached at; **Appendix A**
- 5.7 Should the Committee determine to amend the tariff, Officers will arrange for the public notices to be placed in appropriate local papers. Where no representations are received the tariff would come into effect the day after the end of the consultation period. If representations are received, they will be considered by the next relevant committee.

6. Implications

Policy	None identified
Finance and value for money	Should consultation be required public notices would be required to be placed in local papers which would cost between £500 - £1000.
Legal	
Procurement	None identified
Human resources	Staffing implications in relation to workload to conduct consultation. It is expected that this will be resourced through the Licensing Team existing staffing.
Property	None identified
The Equalities Act: is a full impact assessment required and attached?	No
Risk assessment	None identified
Crime and disorder	None identified

Customer considerations	Should approval for increase in tariff be agreed public notices and consultation would be required. This would be taken into account in any final decision.
Carbon reduction	None identified
Health and wellbeing	None identified.
Wards	(All Wards);

7. Background papers

Not application.

8. Links to other key reports already published

Not applicable.

9. Author and Contact Details

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