



Northumberland

County Council

LICENSING AND REGULATORY COMMITTEE

DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2022

Hackney Carriage Tariff

Report of Philip Soderquest, Head of Housing and Public Protection

Cabinet Member: Cllr. Colin Horncastle – Portfolio Holder Community Services

Purpose of report

To update Members on consultation responses on whether there should be changes to the current hackney carriage tariff

Recommendations

Members note the contents of the report and consider the responses received.

1. Determine to amend the tariff as below:
 - i. To increase all 6 tariffs/or specific tariffs by a % amount. (members should note that due to the way in which tariffs are formulated it is difficult to have an exact % increase)
 - ii. Increase price for flag fall, and/or increments for all/or individual tariffs.
 - iii. Decrease yardage for flag fall, and or increments for all/or specific tariffs
2. Amend the timings which the tariffs apply.
3. To determine no increase for the tariffs.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the Living and Enjoying priorities included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

Key issues

The Council is responsible for setting the hackney carriage tariff, which represents, when the vehicle is operated within its licensing zone, the maximum tariff that may be charged.

The tariffs were reviewed in 2018 where the previous 6 different set of tariffs which were connected to the zones were merged and one set was created to cover the whole of the County.

The current set of tariffs is made up of 6 separate tariffs. 3 tariffs relate to vehicle for up to 4 passengers, the remaining 3 tariffs cover larger vehicles carrying 5 to 8 passengers.

The Licensing section have recently requested the views of the licensed trade as to whether any changes are required to the current tariff. 65 responses have been received which are attached as Appendix A.

The following tables shows a summary of the responses received.

Total number of responses	65
Number of responses not supportive of an increase	16
Number of responses supportive of Flag increase only	3
Number supportive of Tariff 1 and 2 increase	52
Number supportive of Tariff 3 increase	51
Number supportive of Tariff 4 and 5 increase	64
Number supportive of Tariff 6 increase	59

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 and extra charges.

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.

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 as Appendix B.

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	
Finance and value for money	

Legal	Legal requirement to advertise any amendment to the tariff.
Procurement	
Human Resources	
Property	
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	none
Crime & Disorder	none
Customer Consideration	Before making changes to policy consultation with those affected should take place.
Carbon reduction	
Health and Wellbeing	
Wards	All

Background papers:

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	
Relevant Executive Director	
Chief Executive	Daljit Lally
Portfolio Holder(s)	Cllr Colin Horncastle

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