

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO LICENSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 10 AUGUST 2006
 title: FIXING OF HACKNEY FARES
 submitted by: SOLICITOR/LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER
 principal author: DIANE RICE

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 Following the meeting of the Licensing Committee on 22 June 2006, which dealt with various matters in relation to hackney vehicles, a request was received for a meeting to take place between the Chairman of the Committee and representatives of the hackney carriage drivers/proprietors. The meeting took place on Thursday, 13 July 2006, and was well attended.
- 1.2 Hackney carriage drivers/proprietors have asked the Council to review, and increase, the hackney fares charged.
- 1.3 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
- Council Ambitions - }
 - Community Objectives - }
 - Corporate Priorities - }
 - Other Considerations - }
- Hackney carriage drivers/proprietors provide a useful public service, but need to operate in a way which is economically viable.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The current hackney fares took effect on 1 September 2002.
- 2.2 The mechanism for charging fares is based on three factors:
1. a minimum fare for a journey of up to one mile – currently £2.50;
 2. a price per fifth of a mile for travel after the first mile – currently 35p before midnight;
 3. Waiting time – for each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof – 35p.
- 2.3 These form the basic fares. If the hiring begins between 12 midnight and 7am there is an extra charge payable of 50% of the fare.
- 2.4 The only exception to this is for the period between 12 midnight on Christmas Eve until 6am on 27 December, and 12 midnight on New Years Eve until 6am on 2 January when the extra charge is 100% of the above fare.

- 2.5 In addition, there is a charge for fouling in a vehicle of £25.
- 2.6 The mechanism for fixing fares for hackney carriages is set out in the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Section 65. This section provides that a district council may:
- (i) fix the rates or fares within its district as well for time as distance; and
 - (ii) all of the charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle to be paid in respect of the hire of hackney carriages.
- 2.7 When a district council wishes to vary the table of fares, it must publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district a notice setting out the table of fares and the period, (which shall be not less than 14 days from the first publication of the notice), within which and the manner in which objections to the proposed table of fares can be made.
- 2.8 A copy of the notice has to be deposited at the Council offices and available for inspection at all reasonable hours for a period of 14 days from the date of first publication.
- 2.9 If no objection is received, or all objections are withdrawn, the new table of fares comes into operation on the date of expiration of the period specified in the notice, or, the date of withdrawal of the objection, whichever is the later.
- 2.10 In the event that an objection is received, a further report would be brought to Committee setting out the details of the objection.
- 2.11 Committee will no doubt recall that at its meeting on 22 June the scheme of delegation gave Committee responsibility for setting the fees and fares. The scheme, as amended by Committee, is attached for information. (Appendix 1).

3 ISSUES

- 3.1 At the meeting on 13 July 2006, there was almost unanimous agreement that the current tariff should be changed in two ways:-

The point in time at which the extra charges (50%) came into effect should be brought forward from 12 midnight to 10pm.

The cost of the starter fare should be increased from £2.50 to £3.00, but the rate per fifth of a mile should remain at 35p.

- 3.2 The cost for Christmas and New Year should be on the same basis as previously, ie 100% of the starter fare making £6.00 for a journey of up to one mile followed by 70p per fifth of a mile.

- 3.3 The proposed new arrangements are set out below:

Journeys between 6am – 10pm

For a journey of up to one mile - £3.00

For a journey exceeding one mile - £3.00 plus for each 1/5 of a mile or part thereof – 0.35p

Waiting time for each period of 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof – 0.35p

For hiring between 10pm – 6am

For a journey of up to one mile - £3.75

For a journey exceeding one mile – for the first mile - £3.75 plus for each 1/5 of a mile or part thereof – 0.45p

Waiting time for each period of 1 minute or uncompleted part thereof – 0.45p

Hiring begun between 10pm on Christmas Eve until 6am on 27 December and 10pm on New Years Eve until 6am on 2 January

For a journey of up to one mile - £6.00

For a journey exceeding one mile – for the first mile £6.00 plus for each 1/5 mile or part thereof – 0.70p

Waiting time for each period of one minute or uncompleted part thereof – 0.70p.

Fouling in a vehicle - £25.00

4 RISK ASSESSMENT

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

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| • Resources - | } | The Council has a duty to provide an effective system of hackney carriage licensing, and review of the fares contributes to the process. Costs for advertising etc will be met from existing budgets. |
| • Technical, Environmental and Legal - | } | |
| • Political - | } | |
| • Reputation - | } | |

5 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

5.1 Approve the amended fares set out at paragraph 3.3.

5.2 Authorise the Legal Services Manager to arrange for the fares to be advertised as required by the Act.

LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER

For further information please ask for Diane Rice, extension 4418.

10080602

APPENDIX 1

SCHEME OF DELEGATION AND AUTHORISATION – LICENSING OF HACKNEY AND PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES, DRIVERS AND OPERATORS – as confirmed by Licensing Committee 22 June 2006

Matter to be dealt with	Full committee	Sub-Committee	Officers
Application for private hire vehicle, drivers or operators licence			All cases
Application for Hackney carriage vehicle or drivers licence			All cases
Application for any of the licenses referred to at 1 or 2 where refusal is contemplated		When requested by or on behalf of the applicant	If no representations made, or with the agreement of the applicant and in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee
Variation of conditions/review of bye-laws	X		
Formulation and implementation of policy	X		
Suspension/revocation of any licence			All cases
Investigation of complaints/infringements			All cases
Enforcement action to include court proceedings and acting jointly with other enforcement bodies			All cases
Setting of fares and fees	X		

The following officers shall be authorised for the purposes of the Town and Police Clauses Act 1847; the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; the Transport Act 1985; the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and the Local Government Act 2000 to carry out licensing and enforcement functions on behalf of the Committee

Taxi Enforcement Officer
Licensing & Environmental Health Enforcement Officer
Electoral and Licensing Officer
Administration Assistant (Electoral & Licensing)
Legal Services Manager
Modern Apprentice (Legal Section)

110080602-FIXING OF HACKNEY FARES-APPENDIX