

Meeting of:- LICENSING COMMITTEE

On:-Thursday 14th September 2006

Agenda Item No.:5-

Topic:- Review of Hackney Carriage Fares

Type of Report:- Non-Key Decision

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider an application from the Braintree District Taxi Association for a permanent fare increase.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council may fix the rates or fares within a District for time as well as distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle or arrangement of the vehicle, to be paid in accordance with the fare card.
- 2.2 In 1997 it was agreed between Members of the Council's then Licensing Sub-Committee and the Hackney Carriage trade that a review of the fares charged for travelling in licensed Hackney Carriages should take place annually by the trade. Should they wish for an increase, this would then be submitted for consideration by the then Licensing Sub-Committee. It was made clear to the trade, by the Committee, that this new annual review was to avoid a request for a high increase after several years, but no guarantee of an annual increase was to be taken by agreement to such a review.
- 2.3 A request has been received from the Braintree District Taxi Association for a fare increase on behalf of the Hackney Carriage trade as detailed in the attached letter (Appendix 1).
- 2.4 The proposed increase requested is as follows;
 - 1) To increase the charge for the starting rate from £2.30 to £2.60
- 2.5 As an example a "standard" fare for a 2½ mile journey will cost £5.80 as opposed to £5.50.
- 2.6 No other increases have been requested.

3. CONSULTATION

- 3.1 A list of all Hackney Carriage fares throughout Essex is at Appendix 4. This list shows details of actual fares, Extra Charges and date of last increase.

4. IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Should Members approve the proposed new fare structure (a copy of the proposed fare card appears at Appendix 3), it must be pointed out that the implementation date is not able to be determined at this time. Under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the proposals must be advertised in at least one local newspaper for 2 weeks and it is not until the consultation period expires that the new fare cards can be prepared and issued to the trade with an implementation date and instructions to

have their meter chip replaced. If, as a result of the consultation, objections are received, the matter would be referred back to Members.

- 4.2 There are financial implications in the fare card preparation but this would be absorbed by the fees charged to administer the service.

5. OPTIONS

5.1 To increase the charge for the starting rate from £2.30 to £2.60.

5.2 To make no changes to the current fare structure.

5.3 To award a lesser fare increase.

Risks

NONE

Recommendation[s]

NONE

Background Papers:-

1. Letter from Braintree District Taxi association dated 10th July 2006 (Appendix 1)#
2. Copy of current Fare Card (Appendix 2)
3. Copy of proposed Fare Card (Appendix 3)
4. Fares for other Essex Local Authorities (Appendix 4)

Financial Implications:

None

Equalities Implications:-

None

Legal Implications:-

None

For further details please contact:-

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