

Cheltenham Borough Council
Director of Environment – 4 March 2019
Revised Taxi Fares

Accountable member	Councillor Andrew McKinlay, Cabinet Member for Development & Safety
Accountable officer	Director of Environment
Ward(s) affected	All
Key/Significant Decision	No
Executive summary	<p>On 12th February 2019 Cabinet approved revised fares for hackney carriages. The Cabinet resolution delegated authority to the Director of Environment to adopt the proposed fares to adopt the fares subject to no substantive amendments being made following consultation.</p> <p>The consultation has now concluded. One objection was received but subsequently withdrawn. Consequently, the Director of Environment is asked to formally agree the final fares as set out in this report.</p>
Recommendations	The Director of Environment is recommended to approve and formally adopt the hackney carriage fare increase and card.

Financial implications	<p>No financial implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Andrew Knott, Andrew.Knott@publicagroup.uk</p>
Legal implications	<p>As outlined in the report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Donna Marks, Donna.Marks@tewkesbury.gov.uk</p>
HR implications (including learning and organisational development)	<p>No HR implications arising directly from this report.</p> <p>Contact officer: Clare Jones, Clare.Jones@publicagroup.uk</p>
Key risks	As outlined in Appendix 1
Corporate and community plan Implications	None
Environmental and climate change implications	None

Property/Asset Implications	None
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1. Background

- 1.1 On 12th February 2019 Cabinet approved revised fares for hackney carriages. The Cabinet resolution delegated authority to the Director of Environment to adopt the proposed fares subject to no substantive amendments being made following consultation.
- 1.2 Consultation has now been undertaken. One objection was received from a licensed hackney carriage driver. Their objection was subsequently withdrawn following agreement on the objections raised in relation to the fare calculations consulted on.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Cabinet resolution, the final fare calculation and adopted fare card is subject to approval by the Director of Environment.

2. Consultation and feedback

- 2.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 prescribes that the Council must consult if it proposes to set or vary hackney carriage fares.
- 2.2 It must do so by publishing a notice in a local newspaper setting out the variation and specifying a period and means of objecting. The specified period cannot be less than 14 days.
- 2.3 If no objections are made or any made are withdrawn, the proposed fares will take effect on the specified date. However, if objections are made and not withdrawn, the council must set a further date, not later than two months after the initial date, on which the proposed fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided after consideration of any objections.
- 2.4 In accordance with the statutory process, the revised fares were consulted on.
- 2.5 Initially the proposed 6% was only applied to the flag fall at the request of the trade. This was objected to by a licensed hackney carriage driver who requested the 6% also be applied to the running mile.
- 2.6 Following further discussion between the objector and officers, a solution was agreed upon. Attached at appendix 3 is the revised calculation that reflects the 6% being applied to both the flag fall and the running mile.
- 2.7 The objector consequently withdrew their objection and in accordance with section 65 above, the revised fares will take effect on the specified date as outlined on the public notice.

3. Reasons for recommendations

- 3.1 To comply with the Cabinet resolution of 12th of February 2019.

4. Equality Impact Assessment

- 4.1 The proposal to vary and/or change Hackney Carriage rates, has been screened for the potential impact on protected groups within the community and human rights (Human Rights Act 1998) through the Consultation process which took place on the 14th of February 2019. In particular as part of the consultation a Notice was published on same date and all relevant interested parties were notified. No comments or objections were received in this respect or reference that any particular group was going to be adversely affected. No further action is therefore required.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Director of Environment can resolve not to adopt the fare card. The consequence of this will be that the 6% increase will not take effect leaving the fares at the current 2017 rate.

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Appendices	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Risk Assessment2. Fare card to adopt3. Calculations
Background information	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cabinet report and minutes, 12 February 2019

The risk				Original risk score (impact x likelihood)			Managing risk				
Risk ref.	Risk description	Risk Owner	Date raised	Impact 1-5	Likelihood 1-6	Score	Control	Action	Deadline	Responsible officer	Transferred to risk register
	If the Director of Environment does not resolve to adopt the fare card the 6% increase will not take effect leaving the fares at the current 2017 rate. This will result in the trade being unable to sufficiently recover their operating costs.	Director of Environment	March 2019	2	4	8	Accept	Adopt the fare card		Licensing Team Leader	
<p>Explanatory notes</p> <p>Impact – an assessment of the impact if the risk occurs on a scale of 1-5 (1 being least impact and 5 being major or critical)</p> <p>Likelihood – how likely is it that the risk will occur on a scale of 1-6 (1 being almost impossible, 2 is very low, 3 is low, 4 significant, 5 high and 6 a very high probability)</p> <p>Control - Either: Reduce / Accept / Transfer to 3rd party / Close</p>											