

**Report to:** Cabinet member for communities and customers

**Date:** 22 June 2022

**Title:** Lewes District Council Hackney Fare Increase Proposal

**Report of:** Lead for Regulatory Services

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Denis, Cabinet member for communities and customers

**Ward(s):** All

**Purpose of report:** To consider the objection received concerning the Hackney Carriage fare increase.

**Decision type:** Non-key

**Officer recommendation(s):** It is recommended that Councillor Denis as Lead Cabinet member considers the following an objection following the advertising of the fares increase proposed by Lewes District Hackney Trade.

**Reasons for recommendations:** (1) Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Local Authority has the power to set fares for Hackney Carriages

(2) Guidance advises that where the fares are set by the Local Authority, that Authority has a responsibility to review those fares to ensure they remain fair and reasonable.

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Following the decision to agree to a hackney fare increase on 14th April 2022 Lewes District Council have followed due process and have undertaken engagement with the public in the form of a consultation process for a two week period in the local press.
- 1.2 A consultation process took place in the local newspaper the Sussex Express for two weeks on 13<sup>th</sup> May and a deadline for objections was 27<sup>th</sup> May. In response to this an objection has been received. The key points of the objection are highlighted below

*“ The new are fares they are publicly putting forward have not been worked out correctly. Anyone who has ever used a taxi knows that taxi meters are set by computer to work on a 10p or 20p end of price. Anyone who is on the licensing committee should also know this as this is what they are getting paid for. The director of service delivery who signed this off to go out to print should have known this. How can a taxi charge a customer £5.29p for a journey? Do they assume we carry 1p to give change on every journey?*

*And what happens when the customers have a multi seater which is worked out at meter and a half fare £7.93,5 who carries half pence these days.”*

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 Taken into account the points raised above to amend the increased fares at 15% increase to the nearest whole number to satisfy the requirements for meter requirements
- 2.2 Table 1 represents the current fees and Table 2 represents the fees to the closest whole number at a 15% increase.

## **3 Options**

- 3.1 **Option 1:** The Lead Cabinet member agrees the proposal to increase the fares rounded up to the nearest whole number, as set out in Table 2 along with the recommendation to delegate the Lead for Regulatory Services to determine an effective date and notify the trade of the fare increase changes.

**Option 2:** The Lead Cabinet member rejects the proposed increased fares rounded up to the nearest whole number, as set out in Table 3.

## **4 Financial appraisal**

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications. Any subsequent cost of advertising the amended 'Table of Fares' in a local newspaper will be taken from funds already reserved in the Taxi Licensing Budget.

## **5 Legal implications**

- 5.1 Under section 65 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Council may fix the fares by time or distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a hackney vehicle by means of a table of fares.

This is an executive decision rather than a decision of the Licensing Committee.

- 5.2 If the fares are varied then the Council shall publish in a local newspaper a notice setting out the variation and the date that the varied fares will come into operation. That should not be less than 14 days from the date of publication. Public consultation has to take place before there can any variation in hackney carriage fares.

- 5.3 The fares will come into operation on the stated date unless there are any objections received and not withdrawn. If there is an objection then the Cabinet Member will be asked to reconsider his decision in light of that objection/s and new date shall be set for when the new fares will come into effect, which cannot be more than two months after the first stated date.

**Table 1 Current Fare Table**

| <b>FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME</b>   | <b>DAYTIME RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>SUNDAY RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>NIGHTTIME</b><br>23:00 – 06:59hrs<br>& <b>BANK HOLIDAYS</b> | <b>CHRISTMAS PERIOD</b><br>20:00hrs on 24/12 to 07:00hrs on 27/12<br><b>NEW YEAR</b><br>20:00hrs on 31/12 to 00:01hrs on 02/01 | <b>MULTI SEAT RATE</b><br>5 - 8 PASSENGERS |                |
|---|---|--|--|--|--|----------------|
| <b>TO HIRE THIS TAXI</b><br>Initial Flag Rate (first 880 yards) and increases by 23p every 159.4 yards. | <b>£3.00</b>                            | <b>£3.70</b>                           | <b>£4.60</b>   | <b>£6.00</b>   | <b>PLUS 50% FOR ALL JOURNEYS</b>           |                |
| <b>PRICE GUIDE</b><br>1 MILE  | £4.10<br>£6.30                          | £4.80<br>£7.00                         | £5.70<br>£7.90   | £8.20<br>£12.60  |  |                |
| 2 MILES   |   |  |  |  |  |                |
| <b>FOR EACH MILE AFTER 2 MILES</b><br>(23p every 159.4 yards)   | <b>£2.20</b>                            | <b>£2.20</b>                           | <b>£2.20</b>   | <b>£4.40</b>   |  |                |
| 3 MILES   | £8.50<br>£12.90                         | £9.20<br>£13.60                        | £10.10<br>£14.50   | £17.00<br>£25.00   |  |                |
| 5 MILES   | £23.90                                  | £24.60                                 | £25.50   | £47.80   |  |                |
| 10 MILES  |   |  |  |  |  |                |
| <b>WAITING TIME PER 40 SECONDS</b>  | <b>20p</b>                              | <b>20p</b>                             | <b>20p</b>   | <b>40p</b>   |  |                |
| <b>SOILING CHARGE</b>   | <b>£100.00</b>                          | <b>£100.00</b>                         | <b>£100.00</b>   | <b>£100.00</b>   |  | <b>£100.00</b> |

**Table 2 Amended fare Table with the proposed 15% increase rounded up to nearest whole number**

| <b>FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME</b>  | <b>DAYTIME RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>SUNDAY RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>NIGHTIME</b><br>23:00 – 06:59hrs<br><b>&amp; BANK HOLIDAYS</b> | <b>CHRISTMAS PERIOD</b><br>20:00hrs on 24/12 to<br>07:00hrs on 27/12<br><b>NEW YEAR</b><br>20:00hrs on 31/12 to<br>00:01hrs on 02/01 | <b>MULTI SEAT RATE</b><br>5 - 8 PASSENGERS |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|
| <b>TO HIRE THIS TAXI</b><br>Initial Flag Rate (first 880 yards)<br>and increases by 23p every<br><b>159.4 yards.</b> | <b>£3.50</b>                            | <b>£4.30</b>                           | <b>£5.30</b>  | <b>£6.90</b>   | <b>PLUS 50% FOR<br/>ALL JOURNEYS</b>       |
| <b>PRICE GUIDE</b><br>1 MILE   | £4.70                                   | £5.50                                  | £6.60   | £9.50  |  |
| 2 MILES  | £7.20                                   | £8.00                                  | £9.10   | £14.50   |  |
| <b>FOR EACH MILE<br/>AFTER 2 MILES</b><br>(23p every 159.4 yards)  | <b>£2.50</b>                            | <b>£2.50</b>                           | <b>£2.50</b>  | <b>£5.10</b>   |  |
| 3 MILES  | £9.80                                   | £11.00                                 | £11.60  | £19.60   |  |
| 5 MILES  | £14.80                                  | £15.60                                 | £16.70  | £28.80   |  |
| 10 MILES   | £27.50                                  | £28.30                                 | £29.30  | £54.   |  |
| <b>WAITING TIME PER 40<br/>SECONDS</b>   | <b>20p</b>                              | <b>20p</b>                             | <b>20p</b>  | <b>40p</b>   |  |
| <b>SOILING CHARGE</b>  | <b>£100.00</b>                          | <b>£100.00</b>                         | <b>£100.00</b>  | <b>£100.00</b>   | <b>£100.00</b>                             |

**Table 3 Amended fare Table with the proposed 15% increase, not rounded to nearest whole number**

| <b>FARES FOR DISTANCE OR TIME</b>  | <b>DAYTIME RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>SUNDAY RATE</b><br>07:00 – 22:59hrs | <b>NIGHTTIME</b><br>23:00 – 06:59hrs<br><b>&amp; BANK HOLIDAYS</b> | <b>CHRISTMAS PERIOD</b><br>20:00hrs on 24/12 to<br>07:00hrs on 27/12<br><b>NEW YEAR</b><br>20:00hrs on 31/12 to<br>00:01hrs on 02/01 | <b>MULTI SEAT RATE</b><br>5 - 8 PASSENGERS |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| <b>TO HIRE THIS TAXI</b><br>Initial Flag Rate (first 880 yards)<br>and increases by 23p every<br><b>159.4 yards.</b> | <b>£3.45</b>                            | <b>£4.25</b>                           | <b>£5.29</b>   | <b>£6.90</b>   | <b>PLUS 50% FOR<br/>ALL JOURNEYS</b>       |
| <b>PRICE GUIDE</b><br>1 MILE   | £4.71                                   | £5.52                                  | £6.55  | £9.43  |  |
| 2 MILES  | £7.24                                   | £8.05                                  | £9.08  | £14.49   |  |
| <b>FOR EACH MILE<br/>AFTER 2 MILES</b><br>(23p every 159.4 yards)  | <b>£2.53</b>                            | <b>£2.53</b>                           | <b>£2.53</b>   | <b>£5.06</b>   |  |
| 3 MILES  | £9.77                                   | £10.58                                 | £11.61   | £19.55   |  |
| 5 MILES  | £14.83                                  | £15.64                                 | £16.67   | £28.75   |  |
| 10 MILES   | £27.48                                  | £28.29                                 | £29.32   | £54.97   |  |
| <b>WAITING TIME PER 40<br/>SECONDS</b>   | <b>20p</b>                              | <b>20p</b>                             | <b>20p</b>   | <b>40p</b>   |  |
| <b>SOILING CHARGE</b>  | <b>£100.00</b>                          | <b>£100.00</b>                         | <b>£100.00</b>   | <b>£100.00</b>   | <b>£100.00</b>                             |