

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Councillor David Tutt, Leader of the Council</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 March 2023</b>
<b>Title:</b>	<b>Eastbourne Borough Council Hackney Fare Increase Proposal</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	<b>Lead for Regulatory Services</b>
<b>Ward(s):</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	<p><b>(1) To consider the proposal for Hackney Carriage fare increase proposed by the Trade.</b></p> <p><b>(2) Under Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Local Authority has the power to set fares for Hackney Carriages</b></p> <p><b>(3) 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.</b></p>
<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Non-key</b>
<b>Officer recommendation(s):</b>	<p><b>It is recommended that the Leader of the Council considers a fare increase as proposed by the Eastbourne Borough Hackney Trade.</b></p> <p><b>(See options set out at 3.1 of the report)</b></p>
<b>Reasons for recommendations:</b>	<b>A request has been received from the Eastbourne Borough Hackney Trade for an increase in Hackney Carriage fares. The matter is an executive decision for the Leader of the Council.</b>
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	<p><b>Name : Joanna Dunk</b>  <b>Post title: Lead for Regulatory Services</b>  <b>E-mail: jo.dunk@lewes-easbourne.gov.uk</b>  <b>Telephone number: 07342 065628</b></p>

## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 Taxis are an integral part of the area's public transport network. Eastbourne Borough Council has the power to regulate the maximum fares that may be charged for taxi journeys. The setting for hackney carriage fares is governed by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976

- 1.2 The current fares set have been in place since 2019 and the Trade has requested a review of the current fare structure. Currently Eastbourne Borough Council licence 105 Hackney Carriages. Fares charged by Hackney Carriages cannot be more than the fare set by Eastbourne Borough Council. The council do not set the fares for private hire vehicles.
- 1.3 Requests for a change to the maximum hackney fare carriage fares must always originate from the Trade itself. Following requests by the Trade to the Licensing Team and discussions with the Chair of the Licensing Committee it was agreed that this item will now be considered. In previous years this has been taken to Licensing Committee before a Report was sent to the Leader of the Council. However, on this occasion and through agreement with the Chair of Licensing, it was agreed to not undertake this stage to expedite the process.
- 1.4 There has been a significant impact on income for the Hackney Trade during the recent covid pandemic.
- 1.5 Following queries regarding this matter raised by the Trade an initial email was sent to the Hackney Trade on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2022 asking all Hackney Plate Holders whether they would like a fare increase to be considered. The feedback from the initial email response confirmed that 95% of the Trade were in favour of an increase.
- 1.6 A subsequent email was sent on the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to the Trade which requested feedback specifically on the changes they would like to see and 37% responded.

## **2 Proposal**

- 2.1 Of the returned responses specifically to the proposed amount of fare increase, 61% of Hackney Carriage Proprietors were in favour of the fares presented in Table 2.

**Outcome of Consultation with the Trade for clarity as to the fare increase sought**

**Table 1 – Current Fare Tariff**

<b>EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL - TAXI FARE CARD</b>						
<b>Council Contact: 01323 410000 Customer First , Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road Eastbourne, BN21 4UG</b>						
<b>Tariff</b>	<b>Time Periods and Costs</b>	<b>Meter at start</b>	<b>Per mile up to 5 miles</b>	<b>Per mile over 5 miles</b>	<b>Waiting time</b>	<b>This tariff applies to Eastbourne licensed vehicles. Payment for services must not exceed these metered rates.</b>
<b>Rate 1</b>	<b>6am-11pm Mon-Sat</b>	<b>£2.90</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>£2.20</b>	<b>10p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 2</b>	<b>6am-11pm Sun &amp; Bank Holidays</b>	<b>£3.30</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>£2.20</b>	<b>10p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 3</b>	<b>11pm-6am Mon-Sun. Also Christmas Eve &amp; New Years Eve 6pm-midnight.</b>	<b>£3.30</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>£2.60</b>	<b>10p for each 16 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 4</b>	<b>Christmas Day to 6am 27th Dec. New Years Day to 6am 2nd Jan.</b>	<b>£5.80</b>	<b>£4.00</b>	<b>£4.40</b>	<b>20p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rates 5-8</b>	<b>5 or more passengers</b>	<b>Rates 1-4 plus 50% (half)</b>				
<b>Requirement for small removal will incur a £8 surcharge in addition to the metered fare (agreed in advance)</b>						
	<b>Fouling Vehicle £60</b>	<b>Transportation of domestic pets £2. No charge for registered assistance dogs</b>				

**Table 2 - Amended fare Table with the proposed increase**

<b>EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL - TAXI FARE CARD</b>						
<b>Council Contact: 01323 410000 Customer First, Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, Eastbourne, BN21 4UG</b>						
<b>Tariff</b>	<b>Time Periods and Costs</b>	<b>Meter at start</b>	<b>Per mile up to 5 miles</b>	<b>Per mile over 5 miles</b>	<b>Waiting time</b>	<b>This tariff applies to Eastbourne licensed vehicles. Payment for services must not exceed these metered rates.</b>
<b>Rate 1</b>	<b>6am-10pm Mon-Sat</b>	<b>£3.40</b>	<b>£2.20</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>10p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 2</b>	<b>6am-10pm Sun &amp; Bank Holidays</b>	<b>£3.60</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>£2.40</b>	<b>10p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 3</b>	<b>10-6am Mon-Sun. Also Christmas Eve &amp; New Years Eve 6pm-midnight.</b>	<b>£3.60</b>	<b>£2.60</b>	<b>£2.60</b>	<b>10p for each 16 secs</b>	
<b>Rate 4</b>	<b>Christmas Day to 6am 27th Dec. New Years Day to 6am 2nd Jan.</b>	<b>£6.40</b>	<b>£4.60</b>	<b>£5.00</b>	<b>20p for each 20 secs</b>	
<b>Rates 5-8</b>	<b>5 or more passengers</b>	<b>Rates 1-4 plus 50% (half)</b>				
<b>Requirement for small removal will incur a £8 surcharge in addition to the metered fare (agreed in advance)</b>						
	<b>Fouling Vehicle £80</b>	<b>Transportation of domestic pets £2.50 No charge for registered assistance dogs</b>				

2.2 The 'Table of Fares for England published by the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine shows based on a two-mile fare (national tariff 1) varies from £13.20 London Heathrow to Pendle £4.40 which ranks Eastbourne at 159 of 345 councils.

2.3 Other East Sussex Authorities are shown on the Table of Fares for England as follows

<b>Authority</b>	<b>2 Mile Fare</b>	<b>Ranking</b>
<b>Lewes</b>	<b>£7.40</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Brighton and Hove</b>	<b>£8.10</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Hastings</b>	<b>£7.80</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Rother</b>	<b>£7.20</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Wealden</b>	<b>£7.70</b>	<b>59</b>

- 2.4 If the proposed fare increase is agreed, then Eastbourne would be ranked at 48 which is a similar level with neighbouring Hastings.

### **3 Options**

- 3.1 (1) The Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council agrees the proposal to increase the fares, as set out in Table 2 along with the recommendation to delegate the Lead for Regulatory Services to comply with the statutory process of publishing the proposal.

Or

- (2) The Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council rejects the proposed increased fares, as set out in Table 2.

Or

- (3) The Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council asks the Licensing Committee for a recommendation, before taking the decision under executive powers.

### **4 Financial implications**

- 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 must 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 Leader of the Council will be asked to reconsider his decision considering that objection/s and a 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.