

Executive request for Overview and Scrutiny review:

Hackney Carriage Late Night Tariffs

Purpose

1. To report the request of the Cabinet Member for Adult social care, public health and public protection for a scrutiny review of the current schedule of late night tariffs for Hackney Carriages as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014.
2. To propose that Environment Select Committee establish a task group to undertake the review.

Background

3. On 8 May 2018 the Chairman and Vice-chairman of OS Management Committee met with the Cabinet Member for Adult social care, public health and public protection and the Chairman of Licensing Committee to discuss the cabinet member's request for scrutiny input on the county's Hackney Carriage tariff policy. The current countywide tariff schedule was approved by the Licensing Committee in 2014 having considered the findings of a consultation on the introduction of a single charging zone for Wiltshire Council and one table of fares to apply throughout. For ease of reference, the current tariff system and charges are as follows:

	Tariff 1	Tariff 2	Tariff 3	Tariff 4¹	Tariff 5¹
Journeys up to 176 yards (1/10 Mile)	£3.20	£4.50	£5.00	£4.50	£6.00
Subsequent 176 yards (1/10 Mile)	20p	30p	40p	45p	60p
Waiting time per minute	20p 30p	30p 30p	40p 30p	45p 30p	60p 30p

4. The cabinet member advised that:

¹ Vehicles with more than 4 seats carrying more than 4 passengers, between 2230 - 0229 hours for Tariff 4 and 0230 – 0559 hours for Tariff 5.

- A number of complaints have been received regarding the charging of high late-night fares (tariffs 4 and 5) in the Salisbury area and the alleged detrimental effect this may be having on Salisbury's night time economy (NTE).
- Anecdotally, these incidences often relate to military personnel returning from Salisbury to their bases.
- Concerns have also been raised regarding whether Wiltshire's late night tariffs are competitive with those in nearby night-time centres such as Andover, Swindon, Southampton and Bournemouth.
- In the context of the ongoing recovery effort in Salisbury following the events of 4 March 2018, it is appropriate to undertake a review of this issue at this time.

Main considerations

5. The Chairman and Vice-chairman of OS Management Committee and the Chairman of Environment Select Committee support overview and scrutiny considering this matter. It is proposed that a task and finish group be established under the auspices of Environment Select Committee with the following terms of reference:

In the context of the Salisbury recovery effort and reports of high late-night fares being charged in the Salisbury area,

1. **To investigate whether the current schedule of late-night tariffs for Hackney carriages, as adopted by the Licensing Committee in 2014,**
 - a) **Is supportive of Wiltshire's night time economy (NTE)**
 - b) **Is comparable to, and competitive with, night time centres in adjoining counties**
 - c) **Provides a fair system across all parts of the county.**
 2. **To make any evidenced recommendations for improvement as appropriate.**
6. Recommendations would be referred to the relevant cabinet member, though any revision of the policy would ultimately be determined by the Licensing Committee.
 7. As is normal practice, the task group would decide its own methodology, but it may wish to engage with,
 - Taxi companies across Wiltshire (including established taxi industry representatives)
 - Local members in Salisbury
 - Officers from the council's Fleet team
 - Chairman of Licensing Committee

Proposal

8. Following the Executive request for overview and scrutiny input, a task group with the terms of reference listed under paragraph 5 to be established under the auspices of Environment Select Committee.
 9. Task group membership to be sought and the review to commence in anticipation of endorsement by Environment Select Committee on 26 June 2018.
 10. Chairman of Environment Select Committee be given authority to determine the task group's membership pending Committee approval on 26 June 2018.
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Cllr Graham Wright, Chairman of OS Management Committee

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Appendices

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| Appendix 1 | Report to Licensing Committee, 8 December 2014: 'One Zone/One Tariff Consultation – Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing' |
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