

Proposed Changes - Taxi Tariff Schedule for Hackney Carriages

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to brief the Licensing Committee on the latest position in relation to implementing a new schedule of tariffs and fees for hackney carriages in Wiltshire. No decision is required from the Licensing Committee as approval has already been provided for the business area to implement the proposal.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 It was agreed at an extraordinary meeting of Wiltshire Councils Licensing Committee on 27 January 2020 to undertake a public consultation into proposals on a new fees and tariffs schedule for Hackney Carriages in Wiltshire.

The Consultation commenced on 06 February 2020 and finished on 20 February 2020. The details of the proposal were published on the Council's consultation portal for individuals and drivers to feed back on. As part of the consultation all licensed hackney carriage drivers were provided with a copy of the proposals and a driver feedback form and were asked to provide feedback.

- 2.2 After evaluating the feedback and level of response the approved action was to implement Option 2, with a number of amendments. The below details the approved outcome:

- 2.3 For vehicles up to four seats:

- An additional 30p to be added to all flag rates (standing charge)
- Tariff 3 to be amended to only apply on Public Holidays
- Tariff 2 to be implemented from 22:00 instead of the current 22:30 and apply every day apart from public holidays.
- Tariff 1 to end at 21:59 instead of 22:29

For vehicles with more than four seats carrying more than four passengers:

- Tariff 5 to be amended to only apply on Public Holidays
- Tariff 4 to be implemented from 22:00 instead of the current 22:30 and apply all day every day apart from public holidays.
- Tariff 2 to end at 21:59 instead of 22:29.

The impact of the changes are that it will make for cheaper late-night fares after 02.30am, addressing the issues raised in relation to the late night economy. The change to charge tariff 2 and 4 from 22:00 will mean that travel between 22:00 and 22:29 is now slightly more expensive.

- 2.4 In January 2020 the Licensing Committee delegated implementation of the new tariffs to the Taxi Licensing Team. The advertising spend required to advertise the proposed change was unbudgeted for in 2020/21 so implementation was delayed until 2021/2022.

- 2.5 Covid 19 has impacted all industries/sectors and the taxi industry has not been immune to this, experiencing a significant reduction in business. Changes to the tariff would incur a small cost of approximately £20 to adjust every vehicle meter.

- 2.6 It was felt that given the hardship experienced by drivers and vehicle owners since March 2020, to implement this change during the peak of the pandemic would not be supportive of the industry. As the economy begins to recover and return to more “normal” conditions the impact of the tariff changes on vehicle owners and drivers would be more sustainable.
- 2.7 The new tariff of fees will be implemented on 01 January 2022, subject to the normal statutory consultation processes. It is a legal requirement to advertise the proposed changes for 28 days.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Implementation of the proposed changes to the schedule of fees and tariffs for Hackney Carriages will take place on 01 January 2022, subject to the proposals being advertised and standard consultation processes.

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