

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT OF: Yvonne O'Donnell
Environmental Health Manager

TO: Licensing Committee

18 July 2016

WARDS: All

HACKNEY CARRIAGE TABLE OF FARES

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that in respect of the charges for Hackney Carriages, the Council “*may fix the rates or fares within the district as well for time as distance, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle...by means of a table.*”
- 1.2 The existing Table of Fares came into effect on 15th September 2014 and is attached to this report as Appendix A.
- 1.3 Fares comprise charges for:
- Distance travelled (3 tariffs, depending on time of day and day of the week)
 - Waiting time; and
 - Extra charges, which include journeys with 5 or more passengers, a potential fuel surcharge, a vehicle unfit to continue working charge and a surcharge for payment by credit or debit card
- 1.4 Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Ltd (CCLT) has requested an increase of 1.6%. This request is attached as Appendix B.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members are recommended to vary the existing Table of Fares, with effect from 19th September 2016, subject to the statutory consultation process, by increasing the tariffs, in accordance with the rounded rate,

in the above table, as shown in the Table of Fares shown in Appendix C.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting on 30th January 2012, the Licensing Committee resolved to *iii) to determine any future amendment to the Table of Fares by using the percentage increase as calculated by Transport for London.*
- 3.2 As stated in CCLT's letter, the trade indicated that a similar increase was given to London Hackney Carriages this year and wish to use this as the agreed method for a fare increase in Cambridge.
- 3.3 Transport for London (TfL) applied an increase of fares of 1.6% in 2016.
- 3.4 CCLT have not applied for an increase for over two years but wish to have this request considered given the rising costs for drivers.
- 3.5 The fare increase request does not include an increase on Tariff 1 but does include that subsequent distance on each tariff be reduced to 176 meters (from 181 meters).
- 3.5 The following table indicates the current tariffs and the effect of a 1.6% increase as requested by CCLT and a rounded figure, which officers consider would enable passengers and drivers to manage cash handling more effectively.

	Current Rate	CCLT Increase	Rounded Rate
Tariff 1	£2.80	Nil	£2.80
Tariff 2	£3.80	£3.86	£3.85
Tariff 3	£4.80	£4.87	£4.85

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Licensing Committee may resolve:
- a. To vary the existing Table of Fares with effect from 19th September 2016 (subject to statutory consultation) by increasing the distance charges tariffs to the rounded rate indicated in the table at paragraph 3.5
 - b. To vary the existing Table of Fares with effect from 19th September 2016 (subject to statutory consultation) in another way

c. Not to vary the Table of Fares at this time

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 In accordance with the statutory procedure set out in Section 6 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, the Council is required to undertake public consultation prior to making any amendment to the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.
- 5.2 A notice must be published in at least one local newspaper circulating the district, setting out the variation and specifying the period, which cannot be less than fourteen days from the date of the first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections can be made.
- 5.3 If no objection to the variation of the table of fares is made, or if all objections are withdrawn, the revised Table of Fares will come into operation on the date of the expiration of the consultation period. However, if any objections are made and not withdrawn, the Committee will consider the objections and set a further date, not later than two months after the first specified date, on which the Table of Fares shall come into effect, with or without modifications.

6. CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Cambridge City Council has the authority to determine the fares to be charged by Hackney Carriages within the City for distance and time, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle. Any request to vary the Table of Fares must be considered, taking into account its policy as previously determined.
- 6.2 Any proposed amendment to the Table of Fares is subject to the statutory consultation process as set out in Section 5.

6. IMPLICATIONS

(a) Financial Implications

Should Members agree to vary the Table of Fares, the costs of the required statutory consultation and advertising will be met from Licensing fees.

- (b) **Staffing Implications**
Consultation on and implementation of a varied Table of Fares will be undertaken within existing provision.
- (c) **Equal Opportunities Implications**
Public consultation on any proposed variation of the Table of Fares will enable comments and objections to be considered prior to implementation.
- (d) **Environmental Implications**
Nil.
- (e) **Procurement**
Nil.
- (f) **Consultation and communication**
There will be a formal public consultation on the proposed variation of the Table of Fares.
- (g) **Community Safety**
Cambridge City Council regulates Hackney Carriages to ensure the protection of the public. The setting of maximum fares chargeable within the City ensures that they are reasonable and proportionate, for both users and the licensed trade.

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Current Table of Fares

Appendix B: Request from Cambridge City Licensed Taxis Ltd

Appendix C: Proposed Table of Fares

To inspect these documents contact Victoria Jameson on extension 7863.

The author and contact officer for queries on the report is Victoria Jameson on extension 7863.

Date originated: 05 July 2016

Date of last revision: 05 July 2016