

MEETING

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| Date of Meeting | Thursday, 10 October 2019 |
| Report Subject | Hackney Carriage Fare Increase |
| Report Author | Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For Members to consider a request made by the Hackney Carriage trade to increase the maximum chargeable fares payable by the public for Hackney Carriage journeys.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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| 1 | That Members consider the content of the report and approve the increase to the Hackney Carriage Fares, for implementation on 1 st January 2020 following a suitable consultation. |
| 2 | If any objections are received following the publication of a public notice, Members are asked to consider the delegation of this matter to the Licensing Sub Committee for consideration. |

REPORT DETAILS

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| 1.00 | EXPLAINING THE FARE INCREASE |
| 1.01 | Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that a district council may fix the maximum rate of fares within the Borough, and all other charges in connection with the hire of a Hackney Carriage vehicle. This is done by means of a table of fares. |

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| 1.02 | Private Hire vehicles are able to set their own fares and therefore are not the subject of this report. |
| 1.03 | Any member of the licensed Hackney Carriage trade may request that a review of fares and charges takes place. |
| 1.04 | The Licensing Section have received a request from the Manager at a Private Hire Operator firm which uses a Hackney Carriage vehicle within its fleet. The request cites the cost of living, and rising fuel and insurance costs as the reason for the review. |
| 1.05 | The current fares were approved in 2008, and there have been no changes to the fares since that date. The current fares are shown at Appendix A. |
| 1.06 | Private Hire and Taxi Monthly magazine publish a monthly table of taxi fares throughout the UK. Flintshire are currently listed at number 334 out of 362 UK wide Local Authorities. The list is shown at Appendix B. |
| 1.07 | The proposed fees are shown at Appendix C. |
| 1.08 | Licensed Hackney Carriages must be equipped with a taxi meter which must be calibrated to the maximum fares and charges approved by the Council. As the approved fare is a maximum, drivers may charge less if they wish. It is an offence to exceed the approved scale of fares. |
| 1.09 | The proposed fees would bring Flintshire in line with the agreed fares within Gwynedd. |
| 1.10 | To put the fare increase into perspective, there are currently only four licensed Hackney Carriage vehicles within Flintshire. |

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| 2.00 | RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS |
| 2.01 | There are no implications for Flintshire County Council, however, there are to passengers and proprietors of Hackney Carriage vehicles. |

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| 3.00 | CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT |
| 3.01 | Local Authorities have a discretionary power to determine Hackney Carriage fares under s.65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. |
| 3.02 | When a district council make or vary a table of fares, they shall publish in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district, a notice setting out the table of fares or the variation thereof, and specifying the period, which shall not be less than 14 days from the date of first publication of the notice within which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made. |
| 3.03 | If no objection to a table of fares or variation is duly made within the period specified in the notice, or if all objections so made are withdrawn, the table |

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| | of fares or variations shall come into operation on the date of expiration of the period specified in the notice, or the date of withdrawal of the objection or, if more than one, of the last objection, whichever is the later. |
| 3.04 | If any objection is duly made, the Council shall set a further date, not more than two months after the specified date on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided by them after consideration of the objections. |
| 3.05 | There is no right of appeal against the fares once set. |

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| 4.00 | RISK MANAGEMENT |
| 4.01 | None |

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| 5.00 | APPENDICES |
| 5.01 | Appendix A – current table of fares – 2008 Appendix B – table of UK taxi fares Appendix C – proposed fares - 2020 |

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| 6.00 | LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS |
| 6.01 | Contact Officer: Gemma Potter Telephone: 01352 703371 E-mail: gemma.potter@flintshire.gov.uk |

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| 7.00 | GLOSSARY OF TERMS |
| 7.01 | Hackney Carriage – Black cab style taxi or purpose built vehicle which have distinguishable features and can be hailed from the street Private Hire – a type of licensed vehicle which can only be booked through a licensed operator. Private Hire Operator – the person who holds a licence to allow bookings for Private Hire vehicles to be taken. |