

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee

Date **18 November 2014**

Report of: **Director of Community**

Subject: **REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

SUMMARY

Each year the views of the taxi trade are sought in respect of whether they wish the Council to consider an increase to the taxi tariff. The last time the trade indicated they wanted a tariff increase was in 2008, and the matter was considered by the Committee at that time and an increase was granted. In July this year a newsletter was sent to the taxi trade, which sought their view on whether they wished to have an increase to the taxi tariff. There were 4 individual responses from the trade that indicated that they wanted the tariff increased.

RECOMMENDATION

The Committee is requested to consider the responses from the trade in respect of the level of tariff and consider if an increase is appropriate and make a recommendation to the Executive in respect of the level of taxi tariff.

INTRODUCTION

1. Each year the taxi trade are consulted in respect of the level of taxi tariff. The last time the trade indicated they wanted a tariff increase following consultation was in 2008, and the matter was considered by the Committee at that time and an increase was granted.
2. In July this year a newsletter was sent to the taxi trade (this can be seen as Appendix A) to consult upon the taxi tariff. There were 4 individual responses from the trade that indicated that they wanted the tariff increased; these responses can be seen as Appendix B. Response 2 represents 75 licensed vehicles.
3. One of the responses raises the issue of charges for credit card payments, as the payment provider passes on a charge to the driver/vehicle owner in each case. The charges may vary from provider to provider. Legally the payment recipient cannot charge an additional fee higher than that charged to them. Some drivers add this charge to their fare, although strictly speaking this isn't currently allowed as it is not covered by the tariff. Members may wish to consider this matter also at this time, should they wish to amend the tariff.
4. There are currently 224 Hackney Carriage vehicles licensed in the Borough, 185 licensed Hackney Carriage drivers and 77 Dual Licensed Drivers.

INDICES

5. Since the last tariff increase in September 2008, average earnings have remained fairly static, whilst motoring and other travel costs have increased significantly. Inflation is currently around 1.2% and has varied between 1% and 4% year on year since 2008.

RECOMMENDATION

6. Members are asked to review the fares comparison spread sheet (Appendix C) and consider whether to recommend an increase in the tariff. Also included in Appendix C are some example increases in order to further assist members

CONCLUSION

7. That members consider the information contained in the report when making their decision regarding the level of Fareham Taxi Tariff.

Background Papers: None.

Reference Papers: None.

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman (Ext 2401).

APPENDIX A – [Taxi Trade Newsletter July 2014](#)

APPENDIX B – [Responses from Trade to Newsletter](#)

APPENDIX C – [Fares Comparison Spread sheet and examples of Increase to tariff](#)