

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Registration and Licensing Committee

11th March 2019

Report of the Head of Legal Services – Craig Griffiths

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All

Hackney Carriage Fare Increase

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide information to members in respect of a request to increase the maximum permitted fare level which a hackney carriage may charge.
2. To discuss members views on an appropriate level for the increase.

Executive Summary

3. To provide information to members in respect of a request to increase the maximum permitted fare level which a hackney carriage may charge.
4. The decision on whether to increase the maximum fare level is an Executive function and therefore cannot be made by the Registration and Licensing Committee.
5. The Registration and Licensing Committee are therefore being asked to consider the request and provide their views on the level of fare increase that should be considered.

Background

6. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 allows the Council to set a maximum fare for hackney carriages.
7. The fare applies to distance, time and all other charges in connection with the hire of a vehicle.
8. The Council has already set a maximum permitted fare, and has published a table of fares, which is displayed in all hackney carriage vehicles. The current table of fares, last amended on the 1st May 2011, is attached at appendix 1.
9. Following a meeting between the Licensing Authority and the various taxi associations, several proposals have now been received for an increase to the maximum fare level; these proposals are attached at appendix 2.
10. The request is to consider increasing the maximum fare that can be made. Hackney carriage proprietors do not have to set the fare at the maximum level, but most do.
11. The setting of fares under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 is an Executive function, and therefore any decision to amend the maximum permitted fare must be an executive decision.
12. The Registration and Licensing Committee are therefore being asked to consider the request, and to provide their views on the level of fare increase that should be considered.

Officer Report

13. When considering the level of increase, it is suggested that the following cost factors are taken into consideration:
 - Petrol/diesel prices
 - Insurance costs
 - Licence fee costs
 - Inflation
14. Petrol / Diesel Prices - in May 2011 the average U.K cost of unleaded petrol was £136.7p and diesel £141.5p. The current prices of unleaded

and diesel are £118.9p and 126.9p respectively. This represents a 13% reduction in the cost of unleaded petrol and a 10% reduction in the cost of diesel.

15. Insurance costs - enquiries with a local insurance broker revealed that in 2011 a new single vehicle insurance policy for a new driver would have cost approximately £2000. The same insurance policy in 2017 would have cost approximately £3200; a 60% increase. A request for a price for 2019 has been submitted but at the time of writing this report, a response had not yet been received.
16. Licence fee costs - Licence fees payable to the Council in respect of proprietors licences i.e. vehicle fees, have not changed since 2011.
17. Inflation - the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is the official measure of inflation of consumer prices of the United Kingdom.; there has been a 15.04% rise between the end of 2011 and end of 2018.
18. The table attached at Appendix 2, outlines the existing fare tariff and 3 proposals submitted by the trade; a preferred proposal suggested by the Licensing Officer is also shown.
19. It is proposed that following receipt of members' views on a proposed increase, an informal consultation reflecting those views will be undertaken with hackney carriage drivers and proprietors. A final report will then be submitted for consideration to the Council's Executive.

Equality Impact Assessment

20. Not applicable at this stage

Legal Impacts

21. Not applicable

Risk Management

22. Not applicable

Consultation

23. It is proposed that an informal consultation be carried out with all hackney carriage drivers and proprietors prior to a report being submitted to the Council's Executive.
24. Where a decision is taken by the Executive to increase the maximum fare, the proposed increase must be advertised on one occasion in a local newspaper for a period of at least 14 days; any objections must then be considered before the increase can become effective.

Recommendation

25. That members consider the request and provide their views on an appropriate increase to the maximum fare level.

Implementation of Decision

26. A report will be provided to the Executive for determination.

Appendices

27. Appendix 1 - Existing NPTCBC table of fares
28. Appendix 2 - Proposed increase to the maximum hackney carriage fare tariff.

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Neil Chapple
Licensing Manager
Tel (01639) 763056
Email n.chapple@npt.gov.uk