

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Licensing Committee      **DATE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Michael Sims, Licensing Manager  
(01753 477387)

**WARD(S):** All

### **PART I**

### **FOR DECISION**

## **PROPOSED INCREASE IN HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**

### 1. **Purpose of Report**

To consider a request from the Slough Taxi Drivers Union, to increase the approved hackney carriage fares.

### 2. **Recommendation** That the Committee:

- Approve the requested fare increase.
- Approve part of the requested increase.
- Approve a different increase to that proposed.
- Do not approve the requested increase and leave the fares as they are currently.

### 3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

- **Being Safe, Feeling safe**
- **Prosperity for All**

### 4. **Other Implications**

#### (a) **Financial**

Should the fare increase be approved, the Council has an obligation to publish details in the local paper. Any person may write in with a representation against the fare increase and, should this happen, all representations will be presented to the Licensing Committee who shall decide whether or not to modify the proposed table of fares. In any event, the table of fares (whether modified or not) shall come into force within two months from the date that the fare increase was to take effect as stated in the advertisement.

On 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2007 the Licensing Committee approved that:

“The costs of advertising the fare charges in the local newspapers are to be met by the hackney vehicle proprietors from the next submission of proposed fare increases”.

The Slough Taxi Drivers Union has confirmed that the cost of the advertisement for this increase will be divided by the 107 proprietors and payable at the next renewal of their licence.

(b) Risk Management

Recommendation	Risk/Threat/Opportunity	Mitigation(s)
From section 2	The provisions for the Council to approve Hackney carriage fares are contained with the Local Government (Miscellaneous provisions) Act 1976.	None

(c) Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications

Section 1 and Schedule 1 Parts I & II of The Human Rights Act 1998 apply:

Article 1 – Every person is entitled to the peaceful enjoyment of his or her possessions including the possession of licence and shall not be deprived of the possession except in the public interest

Article 6 – That in the determination of civil rights and obligations everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing within a reasonable time by an independent and impartial tribunal established by law.

**Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976:**

Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 states;

- 1) A District 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 or with the arrangements for the hire of a vehicle; to be paid in respect of the hire of a hackney carriage by means of a table (hereafter in this section referred to as a 'table of fares') made or varied in accordance with the provisions of this section
- 2) 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 fourteen days from the date of first publication of the notice, within which and the manner in which objections to the table of fares or variation can be made

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

It is important that the Council through its licensing functions protects the public by ensuring that the fares charged by licensed Hackney Carriages are fair and justified and not excessive.

## **5 Supporting Information**

5.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010 the Slough Taxi Drivers Union requested a fare increase from that previously approved in 2008.

5.2 The changes requested are as follows;

- Section 1 – Initial timing reduced from 120 seconds to 101 seconds and all Tariffs remain the same.
- Section 2 – Additional timing increased from 80 seconds to 120 seconds. Tariffs 1 to 5 increased by 20p, 60p, 20p, 30p and 40p respectively.
- Section 3 – Tariffs 1 and 2 reduced by £1.40, Tariff 3 reduced by £1.90 and Tariff 4 reduced by £2.80.
- Section 4 – A new section with new yardage of 460 yards and timing of 60 seconds.
- Section 5 – Tariffs 1, 2, and 4 remain unchanged and Tariff 3 reduced by 60p.
- Section 6 – A new section similar to that in section 4 in 2008 Fare Tariff. Timing reduced from 80 seconds to 60 seconds. All Tariffs remain the same.
- Section 7 – A new section with new tariffs.
- Section 8 – A new section with new yardage of 133 yards and timing of 60 seconds.
- Section 9 – All Tariffs increased by 20p.
- Section 10 – All Tariffs increased by 20p.
- Old Tariff 2 of the 2008 Fare Tariff has been removed and has been detailed at the bottom of the new proposed fare Tariff as follows: **Daily, between 10pm and midnight, driver to add 40p extra to Tariff 1.**

## **6 Conclusion**

Taking all the information into account the Committee are asked to determine whether the requested fare increase should be approved and, if so, that the hackney carriage trade pay for the advertisement of said fares.

The recommendation of this report is that if the Licensing Committee deems the fares to be fair and proportionate, that the requested increase is approved. However, the Committee should read this report and consider any representations made by any persons before making their decision.

## **7 Appendices Attached**

'A' – Current fare chart

'B' – Updated fare chart with requested increase

'C' – Letter from Slough Taxi Drivers Union

## **8 Background Papers**

Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976  
Town Police Clauses Act 1846