

Notice of Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision

Wednesday 8 September 2021

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Stephen Chard on 01635 519462
e-mail: stephen.chard@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk



Agenda

Part I

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Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

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If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact Stephen Chard on telephone (01635) 519462.

Delegated Officer Decision

Reference	Service Grouping
DOD4137	Public Protection Partnership

Subject:	Statutory Consultation on Hackney Carriage Tariffs
Decision taken:	<p>That a statutory consultation will be undertaken on revisions to the table of fares for hackney carriage tariffs based on the proposals set out in Appendix A to this document.</p> <p>That the consultation will run from the 16 September 2021 to the 14 October 2021 (which exceeds the statutory requirements)</p> <p>That a public notice (as set out in Appendix B) will be placed in the Newbury Weekly News and in the Reading Chronicle on the 16 September 2021.</p> <p>That the consultation will be placed on the Public Protection Partnership’s website and a note will be displayed at the Market Street Council Offices on the 16 September 2021.</p> <p>That a copy of the proposals will be sent to all trade representatives.</p> <p>If objections are received and not withdrawn the objections will be discussed at the 08 November Licensing Committee and a decision will be made at the 18 November 2021 Executive meeting.</p> <p>If no objections are received the revised tariffs will be introduced on the 28 October 2021</p>
Reason for decision taken:	<p>Local authorities have a statutory power to set the maximum fares that licensed hackney carriages (taxis) can charge for a journey. Under section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, local authorities have the power to “...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 hackney carriages 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.”</p> <p>The current tariff scale was agreed in 2013. Since then a number of discussions have taken place with the trade about potential adjustments to these fares. Proposals as set out above be approved.</p> <p>The Licensing Committee met on the 06 September 2021 and after considering the results of the non-statutory consultation with the trade recommended that the proposals as set out above be implemented.</p>
Other options considered:	<p>Not to increase the fares</p> <p>To increase the fares by a higher percentage</p>
Decision taken by:	Eric Owens
Scheme of Delegation Ref:	The procedure for setting fares and public notice requirements are stipulated within section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. This function is currently delegated to the

	<p>Head of Public Protection and Culture under the Council's Constitution</p> <p>Paragraph 3.15.1 of the Constitution delegates authority to the Head of Public Protection and Culture to make a decision on what level of fees should be consulted on.</p> <p>Paragraph 3.2.1.2 of the Constitution states that ' Powers designated to a Head of Service under this Scheme of Delegation shall immediately transfer to a successor Head of Service following a transfer of any functions as a result of a restructuring of Council Services'</p> <p>This decision will therefore be signed off by the Service Director (Development and Regulation) who has now taken on the responsibilities formerly delegated to the Head of Public Protection and Culture.</p>
Job Title:	Service Director - Development & Regulation
Those consulted:	<p>An initial non statutory consultation was undertaken with the taxi trade to establish their preferences</p> <p>The Licensing Committee have been consulted on these proposals. They have also been discussed at Taxi Trade Liaison Group meetings</p>
Background papers:	<p>Report discussed at the Licensing Committee on the 06 September 2021 which can be found at http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&MId=6592&Ver=4</p> <p>Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976</p>

I confirm that I have been fully advised and have taken account of all the relevant facts in making this decision.

Date Decision Made	Date Decision will be Implemented (5 clear days)
08 September 2021	16 September 2021

Officer:	Eric Owens	
Witnessed by:	Moira Fraser	
Date:	08 September 2021	

This decision is eligible to be 'called-in'. However, if the decision has not been 'called-in' by 5.00pm on 15 September 2021, then it will be implemented.

If you have any queries regarding this decision, please contact:

Name: Moira Fraser
Job Title: Policy and Governance Officer
Tel: 01635 519045
Email: moira.fraser@westberks.gov.uk

WEST BERKSIRE COUNCIL HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARE CHART effective 28 October 2021* or 02 December 2021 (TBC)
FARES FOR DISTANCE AND TIME**

* if there are no objections or they are withdrawn

** if there are objections and a decision has to be made at the 18 November Executive meeting

All distance and time charges include uncompleted parts thereof

Tariff 1		Tariff 2		Tariff 3		Extra Charges
Rate for the first mile: £5.00		Rate for the first mile: £7.50		Rate for the first mile: £10.00		Where there are five or more passengers in a vehicle the meter will be switched to Tariff 2
Rate for each mile thereafter: £2.40		Rate for each mile thereafter: £3.60		Rate for each mile thereafter: £4.80		
Hiring when journey commences		Hiring when journey commences between		Hiring when the journey commences on		Taxi Plate Number:
£3.00	Maximum Charge up to 352 yards or 69.1 seconds or a combination of time and distance	£4.50	Maximum Charge up to 352 yards or 69.1 seconds or a combination of time and distance	£6.00	Maximum Charge up to 352 yards or 69.1 seconds or a combination of time and distance	
20p	For each subsequent 146.7 yards or every 28.8 seconds or part thereof	30p	For each subsequent 146.7 yards or every 28.8 seconds or part thereof	40p	For each subsequent 146.7 yards or every 28.8 seconds or part thereof	Waiting Time Per Hour T1 = 25.00 T2 = 37.50 T3 = 50.00

Cross Over Speed 9.34MPH

Where the hackney carriage is used for pre-booked journeys the fare shall be calculated from the point in the district at which the hirer commences their journey in accordance with the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 section 67. If a hackney carriage is booked by telephone, text, email or other electronic means a booking fee may be charged by prior arrangement only

If the journey takes the taxi outside the West Berkshire Council area the driver **MUST** still charge in accordance with the above scales unless they have agreed otherwise with the hirer before the journey has started. **These are the maximum fares chargeable and any lesser fare agreed before commencement of the journey still applies.**

Congestion Charge, ULEZ, or any tolls will be applied for any journey where such charges or tolls are incurred. **These charges would not appear on the meter.**

The driver must carry an assistance dog at no extra charge – Equality Act 2010, section 168

Any complaints about a taxi or a driver should be directed to Licensing@westberks.gov.uk quoting if possible the taxi plate number and or the driver's badge number

WEST BERKSHIRE COUNCIL
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 Section 65 Hackney
Carriage Fares

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Berkshire Council proposes to vary the table of fares chargeable in the District as follows:

- i. For the first 352 yards - £3:00
- ii. For each subsequent 146.7 yards– 20p
- iii. Waiting Time 28.8 seconds – 20p

A full set of proposals can be found at:

<https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/licensing/consultations/>

Any objections to the proposed variations should be submitted in writing to the undersigned by THURSDAY 14 October 2021.

A copy of the notice is available for public inspection by appointment during normal office hours at the address below for 28 days from the 16 September 2021.

If no objections are received, or any such objections are subsequently withdrawn, the revised table of fares shall come into operation from TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER 2021.

Sean Murphy
Public Protection Manager
Public Protection Partnership
Theale Library
Church Street
Theale
Berkshire RG7 5BZ

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