

# Delegated Officer Decision

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Service Grouping</b>
DOD4137	Public Protection Partnership

<b>Subject:</b>	Statutory Consultation on Hackney Carriage Tariffs
<b>Decision taken:</b>	<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If objections are received and not withdrawn the objections will be discussed at the 08 November Licensing Committee and a decision will be made at the 18 November 2021 Executive meeting.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>
<b>Reason for decision taken:</b>	<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>
<b>Other options considered:</b>	<p>Not to increase the fares</p> <p>To increase the fares by a higher percentage</p>
<b>Decision taken by:</b>	Eric Owens
<b>Scheme of Delegation Ref:</b>	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>
<b>Job Title:</b>	Service Director - Development & Regulation
<b>Those consulted:</b>	<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>
<b>Background papers:</b>	<p>Report discussed at the Licensing Committee on the 06 September 2021 which can be found at <a href="http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&amp;MId=6592&amp;Ver=4">http://decisionmaking.westberks.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=152&amp;MId=6592&amp;Ver=4</a></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.

<b>Date Decision Made</b>	<b>Date Decision will be Implemented (5 clear days)</b>
08 September 2021	16 September 2021

<b>Officer:</b>	Eric Owens	
<b>Witnessed by:</b>	Moira Fraser	
<b>Date:</b>	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:*

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