

Reflections of the discussion at the 04 July 2022 Licensing Committee

The Licensing Committee discussed the Statutory Consultation on Hackney Carriage Tariffs 2022 at the meeting on the 04 July 2022.

They noted that the existing tariffs had come into effect in November 2021 but that since then fuel prices had increased by circa 35%. The Committee considered the feedback received from the trade during the informal consultation on potential variations to the fares. Based on that information they were supportive of going out to consult on option 2 (Appendix Ci) which would result in an uplift of circa 8%.

Members discussed the proposed fouling charges which needed to reflect the costs of cleaning the vehicles as well as the cost of lost income while the vehicles could not be used. They suggested that Executive should go out to consult on charges of £75 for the interior of a vehicle and £25 for the exterior.

The Licensing Committee were of the opinion that as the tariffs had only recently been consulted on and due to the urgency associated with the fuel increases it would be appropriate for the consultation to run for 14 days (14 July to the 28 July 2022) which accorded with the statutory minimum.

They supported the statutory notice being placed in both the Newbury Weekly News, and the Reading Chronicle, on the Public Protection Partnership's website and on display at the Market Street Council Offices. They also agreed that Officers email the notice individually to all West Berkshire licensed Hackney Carriage Proprietors for their comments.

The Licensing Committee observed that if objections were received, and not withdrawn they would be considered by the Executive at its meeting on the 22 September 2022. The Executive would determine whether the varied table of fares should be modified or not, and set a date when the varied table of fares, with or without modification, would come into operation. Based on the view of the Committee this would have to be by the 28 September 2022.

They also noted that if no objections were received or if they were withdrawn the revised table of fares would come into effect on the 29 July if the Executive were minded to consult for 14 days.