

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2022
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Public Protection Business Manager <a href="mailto:licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk">licensing@denbighshire.gov.uk</a> 01824 706066
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Proposed Changes to Hackney Carriage Vehicles Table of Fares and Charges

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To review the current tariff charges for hackney carriage vehicles (taxis).

## **2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 Following a request by a number of licensed drivers to review the current tariff charges officers have drafted proposals for further consultation.

## **3.0 POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION**

- 3.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (“the Act”) allows the Council to fix the rates or fares within the county in connection with the hire of a vehicle.
- 4.2 Members considered a report at their last Licensing Committee meeting and resolved that Officers should consult on the proposals agreed and report back to the Licensing Committee if objections were raised.
- 4.3 Following Lead Member delegated decision officers published the statutory notice in the local press, as seen in Appendix A.
- 4.4 As a result of that notice fourteen objections were submitted within the requisite 14-day period. A redacted summary of those objections are available at Appendix B.
- 4.5 Officers advised all licensed drivers that the proposed tariff change would not take place until objections are considered by Members. As a

consequence, a number of representations were received in support of the proposed changes to the tariff and these are attached as Appendix C. Additionally, two petitions were received signed by 38 licensed drivers.

- 4.6 The proposed tariff is attached at Appendix D with the changes proposed highlighted.

## **5.0 CONSIDERATIONS**

- 5.1 The “table of fares” was last amended in 2018.
- 5.2 The charges for distance are used to compile a “league table” of taxi fares throughout the UK, produced by the Private Hire and Taxi Monthly. Based on current charges (£5.60) Denbighshire are listed at number 268 out of a total number of 359 UK wide Local Authorities; 13 out of 22 in Wales and 5 out of 6 in north Wales (May 2022). Members may wish to note this proposal would take Denbighshire to 7<sup>th</sup> highest in Wales and, along with Gwynedd, second highest in north Wales with the same journey costing £6.00. Conwy, having recently amended their charges, have the highest charge in the region at £6.60.
- 5.3 Comparisons are based on two-mile journey on the normal tariff (“Tariff 1”) and does not take account of any extras / additions. Position “1” is dearest.
- 5.4 The proposals amount to a 7% increase in charges for a two-mile journey although this percentage increases with distance.
- 5.5 Members will wish to consider the opinions of both objectors and supporters in determining whether any change to the tariff is needed and in particular may consider aspects such as:
- The timing of tariff 2
  - The days where tariff 2 is implemented
  - Is the rate per mile the appropriate measure for subsequent distance? Is per half mile better suited.
- 5.6 After consideration of the objections, the Council is obliged to set a date where the tariff will be implemented, with or without any modifications, and this date must be within two months of the date specified in the notice referred to in paragraph 4.3. For clarity, the public notice implementation date was 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and therefore the implementation date must be 10<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at the latest.

5.7 Members should note that although the Council set the table of charges a hackney carriage proprietor can charge a customer a lesser fee; the set charge is the maximum permitted.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 That Members consider all the representations received, both for and against the proposals and they may then resolve to either:

- Approve the proposed tariff as detailed in Appendix D with an implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, or
- Amend the proposed tariff with an implementation date of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, or
- Reject the proposals