

Report of	Record of	Date
Director of Planning and Development Introduced by the Executive Member (Planning and Development))	Executive Member Decision	14 April 2022

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Consideration of Hackney Carriage Table of Fares Increase

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a request by the Hackney Carriage trade for an increase in the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares.

Recommendations

2. That the increase to the Hackney Carriage Table of Fares proposed by the trade is approved, subject to statutory consultation; and
3. That authority is delegated to the Enforcement Team Leader (Licensing) to carry out the necessary advertising requirements to comply with Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976; and
4. That it is noted that, if no objection to the proposed increase is received, the table of fares shall come into force on the expiration of the advertising requirements and that, if an objection is received, the matter shall be brought back before the Executive Member for determination.

Reasons for recommendations

5. To ensure that the maximum fares permitted to be charged by hackney carriages reflect the costs incurred by a licence holder who spends whatever is necessary to operate and maintain their hackney carriage to a high standard.

Other options considered and rejected

6. The Council can decide not to increase hackney carriage fares as part of this review. This option is not desirable as it could result in a licence holder not being able to earn a proper living or fully recover the costs associated with properly maintaining or operating a hackney carriage.

Corporate priorities

7. The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all	A strong local economy
Clean, safe and healthy communities	An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area

Background to the report

8. Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that a Council may fix the fares within the district for time and distance and all other charges in connection with the hire of a Hackney Carriage.
9. Chorley Council does fix the maximum fares hackney carriages are permitted to charge, with the Council last increasing the Table of Fares in February 2019, following a request from the trade. A copy of the current Table of Fares is appended at [Appendix 1](#).
10. Through 2019, inflation was 1.8%. Subsequent years saw inflation rise by 0.9% and 2.6% respectively, with a significant increase expected in 2022. The figures for January and February 2022 are 5.4% and 6.1% respectively. Members will note the significant increase in the price of fuel, a key cost in the running of a hackney carriage business.

Hackney Carriage Fare Increase Request

11. On 17th November 2021, a request was received from a representative of the Hackney Trade for an increase to the permitted Table of Fares.
12. Further clarifications were received from the trade on 6th April 2022.
13. The proposal will see the fare calculated on the basis of 1/10ths of a mile as opposed to the existing 1/18th of a mile. There is an increase to the standing charge from £2.30 to £3.00 and each subsequent mile from £1.80 to £2.00. The trade also seeks an increase from 10p per 20 seconds waited to 20p per 30 seconds waited.
14. A comparison table is appended at [Appendix 2](#) which gives the proposed Chorley rates and figures for neighbouring authorities.

Process for Approval

15. Before implementing a new set of fares, the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 requires the Council to publish a notice in a local newspaper setting out the proposed change and the period during which objections can be made. This period cannot be less than 14 days from the date of publication.
16. In the event no objections are received, the proposed changes take effect on the expiry of the date specified in the notice.
17. In the event there is an objection received, the Council must set a date not later than 2 months after the date of the notice for the changes to take effect. Before this date, the Council must first consider the objection and may make any variation to the change.

18. Unusually for taxi licensing, fare setting is an executive function. It is therefore proposed that the following timeline be adopted:

Event	Date
Report considered by SMT	13 th April 2022
Recommendations approved by EMD	14 th April 2022
Five working days to allow for call in	25 th April 2022
Statutory consultation to take place and be published in the Chorley Guardian	26 th April 2022- 10 th May 2022
If no objections received, fares take effect	11 th May 2022
If objection received, to be considered and any variations to be implemented by	11 th July 2022

Climate change and air quality

19. The work noted in this report does not impact the climate change and sustainability targets of the Councils Green Agenda and all environmental considerations are in place.

Equality and diversity

20. The work noted in this report is not anticipated to impact equality and diversity.

Risk

21. A failure to increase hackney carriage fares could reduce the ability of licence holders to maintain their vehicles to a high standard, resulting in a risk to public safety.
22. There could be reputational damage to the Council if it does not allow the Table of Fares to rise to allow a proper standard of living for the Hackney Trade.
23. The Council may also face reputational risk in the event of a legal challenge if it was not able to justify its decision not to increase the fares. This may result in financial risk in the way of being ordered to pay legal costs.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

24. There are no direct financial implications of this decision.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

25. S65 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provision Act 1976 allows the Council to fix the fares charged in respect of Hackney Carriages in a table of fares. The legislation provides that any changes to the table of fares are required to be published in a notice in one local newspaper. In the event that no objections are received or any objections so received have been withdrawn the table of fares shall come into effect on the date specified in the notice which is to be no sooner than effect 14 days after the date of publication or the date on which the objection is withdrawn if later. In the event that an objection is received and is not withdrawn the Council can set a date no later than 2 months on which the table of fares shall come into operation with or without modification after consideration of the objection.

There are no background papers to this report.

Appendices

Appendix	Description of item
Appendix 1	Current Table of Fares for Hackney Carriages
Appendix 2	Comparison Table for proposed fares

Report Author:	Email:	Telephone:	Date:
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Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2, 3 and 4 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Councillor Alistair Morwood
Executive Member for Planning and Development

Dated: 14 April 2022

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.