

**LICENSING & REGULATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 6 September 2022**

Attendance:

Councillors  
Williams (Chairperson)

McLean  
Batho  
Cunningham  
Kurn

Laming  
Reach  
Small

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors Achwal\*, Isaacs and Westwood

Deputy Members:

Councillors Clear, Cramoysan and Pearson

Members in attendance who spoke at the meeting

Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member for Local Plan and Place)

Other members in attendance:

\*Councillor Achwal attended the meeting virtually to observe only.

[Audio and video recording of this meeting](#)

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5. **REVIEW OF HACKNEY CARRIAGE FARES**  
(LR563)

The Licensing Manager (Interim) introduced the report and explained that a request had been received from the Taxi and Private Hire Forum to review hackney carriage fares. It was proposed that the recommendations as set out in the report be amended to clarify the process for approving any fare increase and members agreed these changes as set out in the resolution below.

The Licensing Manager highlighted a correction to paragraph 11.19 of the report to note that the two mile fare for Hart District Council was £8.20 (not £6.80 as stated).

The Licensing Manager responded to members' questions regarding the proposals including the following:

- the current average price of fuel in Winchester;
- of the fare review proposals contained as appendix 5 to the report, the pre-consultation survey sent to all licensed hackney carriage and private hire vehicles indicated a first preference for option 4 and second preference for option 2;
- the impact on the existing taxi trade of the impact of the Covid pandemic in recent years and the current rise in the cost of living meant that at least 50 drivers had already left the profession.

Members also recognised the importance of balancing the difficulties facing the taxi trade against the requirement for their customers to be able to afford any increase in fares and ultimately for the availability of the service to be retained.

Following debate, the committee agreed that an increase in hackney carriage fares should be implemented, with the majority in favour of option 2 of the proposed fare charts (as contained as appendix 3 to the report). With regard to the consultation, members emphasised the importance of reaching groups that might not have access to the internet and/or social media and suggested that posters be displayed at key locations, such as well-used taxi ranks. Members also requested that the consultation commence as soon as possible to enable any increase in fares to be introduced without delay.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That hackney carriage fares should be varied at this time.
2. That it be agreed:

- (i) That option 2 of the proposed fare charts produced by the Taxi and Private Hire Forum (as contained as appendix 3 to the report) be put forward for consultation.
- (ii) That the length of time for which public consultation shall take place shall be 21 days.
- (iii) That the list of consultees for the purposes of public consultation be approved, as shown in appendix 5 to the report.

3. After close of the consultation process, that the table of hackney carriage fares together with any representations received be put forward to the next appropriate Cabinet Member Decision Day for consideration and decision.