

# CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

## Licensing Committee

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**Date of Meeting:** 5<sup>th</sup> November 2012  
**Report of:** Miss K Evans, Licensing Team Leader  
**Subject/Title:** Hackney Carriage Table of Fares - Update

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### **1.0 Report Summary**

- 1.1 This report seeks Members' views on a number of different options open to the Council when deciding on an appropriate variation to the current table of fares in each Hackney Carriage Zone.

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members note the information in the report and appendices and provide their suggestions to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services so that an informed decision can be taken.

### **3.0 Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1 To give the Licensing Committee the opportunity to identify their preferred option or opinions to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services.

### **4.0 Wards Affected**

- 4.1 All

### **5.0 Local Ward Members**

- 5.1 Not applicable

### **6.0 Policy Implications**

- 6.1 None

### **7.0 Financial Implications (Authorised by the Director of Finance and Business Services)**

- 7.1 None

### **8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)**

- 8.1 Section 65 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 provides that the following is required when varying a table of fares:

- (i) publication of a notice setting out the variation to the table of fares (specifying the period within and manner in which objections can be made) in at least one local newspaper circulating in the district; and
- (ii) deposit of the notice for the period of fourteen days at the offices of the Council (for public inspection).

- 8.2 If no objection to the variation is made within the relevant fourteen day period (or if all such objections are withdrawn) the variation comes into operation on the date of the expiration of the period specified in the notice (or the date of withdrawal of the last objection (if any)). If objection is made and not withdrawn, a further date (not later than 2 months after the first specified date) shall be set on which the table of fares shall come into force with or without modifications as decided after consideration of the objections.

## **9.0 Risk Management**

- 9.1 Full consideration of any objections received in response to the publication of the notice would mitigate the risk of challenge to any decision taken.

## **10.0 Background and Options**

- 10.1 Following the Committee's decisions that further consultation be undertaken regarding the harmonisation of the Tables of Fares, the Licensing Section has conducted consultation with the licensed trade in the Macclesfield and Congleton zones. However, the licensed trade in the Crewe and Nantwich zone has chosen not to engage in the process.
- 10.2 Following the consultation, agreement with the Congleton and Macclesfield Zones has been reached on the following:
- i. A harmonised structure based on a fixed rate for first mile or part thereof
  - ii. The subsequent mile rate to be £0.22 per 1/10<sup>th</sup> mile or part thereof
  - iii. Tariff 2 to operate from 9pm to 12am at the flag rate plus a set percentage
  - iv. Tariff 3 to operate from 12am to 7am at the flag rate plus 50%
  - v. Soling charge to be £50.00
  - vi. Additional agreements have been reached regarding Sundays, public holidays and Christmas and the rates that are applicable
- 10.3 Whilst agreement regarding the structure of the Table of Fares has been reached, no further agreement has been reached on the harmonisation of the flag/first mile rate.
- 10.4 It will therefore be necessary for the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services to determine which option(s) are approved for further consultation and implementation.

10.5 To assist Members in making a recommendation to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Regulatory Services the following documents are attached to this report:

- i. Table showing the current rates applicable in each zone (appendix 1)
- ii. Current flag rates (appendix 2)
- iii. Tables showing the effective of a number of different flag rates and alternative percentage increases for tariff two (appendices 3 to 6)
- iv. Table produce by Private Hire and Taxi Monthly Magazine showing the fares and tariffs of other Local Authorities for the month of September (appendix 7). This is provided to Members for comparison.

## **11.0 Access to Information**

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Appendices 1- 7

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